

TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by TzedekChaim - 06 Sep 2016 23:20

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Well here I am.

I thought I could do it on my own. Definitely can't. That's how being an addict is. Although this is in the 90 day journey section. I am not going for 90 days. Just 1 day. Today. From now till 7:08pm tomorrow. Then we'll see from there.

I was exposed to this filth as a youngster, completely out of no where. I was playing a gameboy and one of my classmates had a psp with unfiltered internet access and he shoved it in my face. The internet in my house was not filtered (parents in denial, yada yada...). b'h I have not watched that much shmutz but my imagination is a real problem, not to mention the triggers abound in the goyish college/public transportation that I go to. The rest is history. But since finding gye about 2 yrs ago I hope to change that.

So why am I starting a thread if I have been doing this for two years? Obviously, because I have been failing at this for not just the past two years (where I have made some very big gains) but also for the last ten years. I am now 23 and in the parsha, but I am not stupid to think that getting married will solve my problems. it will probably make them worse. What I need is advice and support from this amazing community to help me get through this.

Thanks

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Singularity - 07 Mar 2017 08:42

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Did he ever get a reply?

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by GrowStrong - 07 Mar 2017 08:49

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[Here](#)

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 07 Mar 2017 12:01

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UraJew wrote: via Guard, I sent a message to Rabbi Shafier similar to Gibbor's (and I understand others as well) and he (Guard) received back the following response (from Rav Shafier): "I developed this series for "regular guys" meaning single yeshivah bochurim or married fellows, I have never worked with the type of group that GYE caters to. I hear the point that they are making and will keep it in mind."

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Here is what Yechidah added and clarified about this: "lust & healthy sexual desire are 2 different things

If R Shafier used the word "lust" -then he just used the wrong word

& even an addict, **has to** [see below where he changes this] employ healthy sexual desire towards his wife

its a fine line ,& an addict has to be careful ,but the healing growth is not to eliminate all sexual desire but to express it in healthy ways-towards ones wife & in a safe way

there is sexual passion within real love as well.but if one has fallen into patterns of lust he needs more caution.& gibbor is correct in very well defining the dangers as well as the caution needed.

But healthy sexual desire & real love are not mutually exclusive concepts.

They even enhance one another & thats what R Shafier probably means. the term he used was incorrect but this is clearly his intent....

for an addict certainly its not "has to". its "if he can without any serious risk to his recovery"

R shafier makes 2 mistakes.1) his use of the word lust instead of sexual desire.its 2 different concepts 2) his not clarifying his term of making a wife " the object of your desire".having listened to his other tapes & even this one, he discusses love & respect & treating a wife as a human being in such clear terms, he does not mean this "object of desire" literally-even when

speaking to a non-addict.what he means (atleast on a non-addict level) is that the sexual element (even physical desire) very much enhances a marriage.I agree.

your right in that I admit that this mode of interacting does have its real dangers to an addict.If you feel its too dangerous for an addict & it can harm his recovery,I certainly believe you (Dov)in that its a real risk.

But a married recovering addict cant avoid sex forever. & sex & sexual desire need not to be a damaging aspect forever (unless you really believe that it always will be-for every recovering addict on every level & for the rest of his life) if training of sexual desire (lust is not the right word) into ones spouse can feed into sexual manipulation-then he needs to learn the damage caused from manipulation & **"unmanipulate"**..Not to avoid sex & its real gifts.But to healthily engage in it & learn to behave in the opposite way -to unmanipulate.all wives are different but many do want to enjoy the sexual aspects of themselves.so if in some cases avoidance of the physicality of sex is thier learning experiece, then for others , the engaging in it & training ones self to learn how to interact with an open honesty that is in contrast to his natural manipulativeness-thats also a learning process,thats where he needs to grow. But "Le Maaseh"-practically speaking, you are right in that you need to know yourself & make sure you ask the right people who know your own state before his method should be employed,because the risks are there & they are real.Im just not convinced that its a wrong approach automatically for every addict on every level."

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by gibbor120 - 09 Mar 2017 20:23

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[TzedekChaim wrote on 05 Mar 2017 18:15:](#)

5) This is more of a question. I know that many have and continue to say on this forum about how marriage does not solve this problem and may in fact even make it worse. (now that is a bit scary, but also realistic, and I get where it is coming from) However, in 'the fight' shiurim by rabbi shafier he talks about how before marriage one must fight the fight in the smartest way possible using the best tools available, but that until one is married it is impossible to totally win the fight. Obviously, marriage does help in some fashion. (in the shiur he explains some of the manners in which it helps) I was wondering if anyone more wise/married had any positive aspects of marriage that contribute in good ways to this fight? (I feel like the other approach is too focused on negatives, albeit not unrealistic. I just feel that it is difficult enough as it is to not

think that I'm entering a new and only more difficult fighting ring. To me now it feels a bit like shooting myself in the foot so to speak getting married.) Any good things gained from getting

married in this area of potential and growth?

Disclaimer: I didn't like "'the fight' shiurim by rabbi shafier".

That said, I think marriage can help and hurt. I think one of the misconceptions is that acting out is about taivah and hormones. Therefore, if a person has an outlet, he will not have a problem.

That may be true to a certain degree, but certainly for someone who is addicted, it can make things worse. He can view his wife as an object to satisfy his desires. (This is a sliding scale by the way, and I think we all do it to one degree or another.) He can then pressure her etc. She is

Addiction is about escape. I know for myself, and I think many others here will agree, the ).

The fact that addiction has much more to do with emotional state etc. means that marriage can be good or bad. A good marriage can uplift a person etc.. A bad marriage can be toxic.

Even in a good marriage, there are bumps along the way. Getting married is stressful. As much as you think you love your kallah, and nothing will ever go wrong... the reality is much different.

I wouldn't stress about it too much. Just realize, that your emotional state is probably more important than your physical satisfaction.

Just do your best to be a good husband. To appreciate your wife as a person, and not pressure her to satisfy you. (That is not so say that she should not satisfy you, just that you should not be obsessed with her satisfying you in specific ways.) It is a learning process for both of you. Be open and honest and IY"H things will be good.

Please keep us posted.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by cordnoy - 09 Mar 2017 20:44

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[gibbor120 wrote on 09 Mar 2017 20:23:](#)

[TzedekChaim wrote on 05 Mar 2017 18:15:](#)

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turned off and it can make intimacy a source of tension instead of ... well intimacy

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Please keep us posted.  
biggest trigger I have is being in a fight with my wife. (That trigger doesn't exist for singles

Please get this in the award postin' section.

When Gibbor writes several paragraphs, it's really a doozie.

Thank you

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 09 Mar 2017 21:59

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I agree, that was an epic post by gibbor.

I happened to REALLY like the series The Fight.

I even distributed many of the cds around several different Shuls. Anyway...

Marriage definitely helps. I can only speak about my experience

as someone who struggles and has struggled in this area for years.

If a big tyvah came when I was single, I thought no outlet, no end in sight. I must release.

If a big tyvah came when I was married, I thought she will be muteres soon. I can wait.

This is the pas b'salo principle that is TOTALLY true.

It is way easier to fast today, knowing that tonight you will have a big meal.

If you were a pauper with no money and no food, the fast would be a lot harder.

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If there is a shalom bayis fight and you expected to be together, that is a very BIG nisayon

to act out, as Gibbor said. Try your best not to get into fights, and admit you were wrong, if

a fight occurs. This is true no matter what, even though probably half the time, she was wrong (too).

Never expect that she will apologize to you...for anything...ever. If it happens, great.

But never expect it.

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A good or great marriage uplifts you emotionally and makes acting out very unlikely.

Again, Gibbor is right. Emotional stability is key, and rough patches in marriage or even a bad marriage, chas v'shalom, will make it VERY likely that the guy will act out.

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A good or great marriage takes time and effort. It doesn't just happen.

You have to be proactive creating the environment for love to grow and blossom.

If you do that, she will reciprocate, and you can break free and win the fight.

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NO idea how it works for an addicted guy. Just like NO addicted guy knows how it works for me.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by unanumun - 09 Mar 2017 22:18

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[Yosef Tikun HaYesod wrote on 09 Mar 2017 21:59:](#)

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how do you know you are not addicted?

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 09 Mar 2017 22:34

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Not sure if this is a Purim joke, Una.

How do we know anything?

We look at the facts and the whole picture and make a reasonable determination.

How do we know it's safe to cross the street?

Maybe a car will zoom out of nowhere and hit us, chas v'shalom...it happens.

Why make plans for Purim (or even Shabbos)?

Who knows if we will live that long?

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If you are truly serious, I am willing to have an email discussion...

or even a tiny one here (without attacking me, criticizing my way of thinking,

or making me feel defensive).

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by unanumun - 09 Mar 2017 22:39

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what would have to be different in your life in order for you to consider yourself an addict?

in other words, what is it about being an addict that makes you feel you are not one of them/us?

this is a small discussion

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 09 Mar 2017 23:15

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"What would have to be different in your life in order for you to consider yourself an addict?

In other words, what is it about being an addict that makes you feel you are not one of them/us?"

First thing that comes to mind is: wow, I really enjoy talking to someone smart. It's a deep Q.

Second thing that comes to mind is: that I can't answer the 2nd sentence for the very reason I wrote.

Third thing that comes to mind is: if I can answer the 1st sentence?

Fourth thing is: that yes, I must be able to answer it.

Fifth thing is: what IS the answer?

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O.k. if chas v'shalom, things had been getting progressively worse.

If I felt I was no longer in control of my actions. If I felt compelled to act out.

If I felt a certain tolerance to it, so the high was no longer a real high

as this short animation video describes:

[gye.vids.io/videos/d49bdfba1a11e4c45c/05-addiction-animation](https://gye.vids.io/videos/d49bdfba1a11e4c45c/05-addiction-animation)

Or if I felt like I couldn't live without it or overcome it...

I was somehow powerless and doomed to fail...

THEN I would strongly consider the possibility that I have an addiction

that needs its own special treatment.

In the absence of all this, I feel it is far more likely that I have a very bad habit,

that I can and will break free from and overcome.

It will still be very difficult and take major siata d'shamaya.

Perhaps the difference between a guy with 2 broken legs, running a 10k race the whole way,

in under 50 minutes, and a 75-pounds-overweight guy who can't run for even 2 minutes, being able to run the same 10k race in under 50 minutes.

In a year's time, they both can do it and succeed. But the 1st guy needs special treatment in a hospital, while the 2nd guy could theoretically do it on his own without special treatment.

That's not to say that he **will** put in the time and effort, learn new skills, and succeed. He probably won't.

But the 2nd guy has no chance without the special help that doctors in the hospital can provide.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by cordnoy - 09 Mar 2017 23:18

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[Yosef Tikun HaYesod wrote on 09 Mar 2017 21:59:](#)

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NO idea how it works for an addicted guy. Just like NO addicted guy knows how it works for me.

It's a nice theory and may even work by some people, and even you. Continued hatzlachah with that.

Il don't get involved in the addict/non addicts discussions.

From your experience last week, it doesn't seem that the "pas besalo waitin' routine" was in top form. But could be that was an exception.

Keep workin'.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by Yosef Tikun HaYesod - 09 Mar 2017 23:29

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Last week, was clearly an example of a shalom bayis fight...

not of the pas b'salo principle.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by cordnoy - 09 Mar 2017 23:36

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[Yosef Tikun HaYesod wrote on 09 Mar 2017 23:29:](#)

Last week, was clearly an example of a shalom bayis fight...

not of the pas b'salo principle.

Ok.

That wasn't the way it was presented.

But that's also ok.

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Re: TzedekChaim's journey

Posted by TzedekChaim - 17 Mar 2017 21:25

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B'H!!!!

There is a lot to post about b'H, but I will have to do it in smaller increments as time allows.

**Thank you Singularity, Coordnoy, Yosef, unanumun, and Markz\*** among others, for your encouraging support. R

@Yosef: I appreciate the detailed follow up and thoughts on Rav Shafier's lectures. I have to say that I agree that the image does not have to be x rated. But I'm not married and my kallah is quite modest, so for me an x rated picture is pure lust/fantasy. I find it helpful to think of her smiling, or just being herself. It helps. I think he intended it to be x rated in the shiur. It was explicit from his language, but I think the goal is to make your wife the **ONLY** woman in your mind. So if that happens different ways then great!

) about praising you (yosef) for your story that you shared. I want to clarify that I don't think everything that occurred in the story is to be taken as an example. Just the difficulty of the test and the thought that just do what Hashem wants and things will work themselves out the way He want, which is always in MY best interest. So thank you Yosef for sharing, and thank you to those others for ensuring I make the most

Kol hakavod GYE!!! Thank you and have a fantastic shabbos!!!

\*at first I was pretty sure, markz, that you just took an overall glance over my post, saw there were too many smiley's, and commented on those. Then I saw your Rav Shafier comment, and I was like, "whoa! he read the whole post! I'm very flattered." Then it turns out I was right all . Thanks for being there time and again!!!

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I got a lot a flak and concern (in the best way possible