

Steve's Journal

Posted by Steve - 15 Dec 2009 18:46

So here I am, finally beginning my journey into my New Way of Living, thanx to Reb Guard, Duvid Chaim, the fearless crew on the Good Ship Lust-Will-Pop, and the GYE family.

I got here around 7/28/08 while searching for chizuk for shmiras eiynayim, signed up for the emails, then wasted over a year letting them collect in an inbox folder hoping to get to read them one day. The forum looked too intricate for me to navigate, so I didn't even try.

B"H for "falls" at the right time, cuz picking myself up from one led me to finally read one email. And THAT ONE, ladies and germs, is where I saw the advert for DC's new 12-Step Program Group Call, and thank G-D I followed the links to find out more. Again, Hashem was stretching out His hand to me, but THIS time, I TOOK IT!! I joined his group when it started in October.

I NEVER would have suspected I was a sexaholic, I just thought I was a guy with a very big yetzer hora for "girlwatching" that just got out of hand with the ease of internet access. But when I read the descriptions that an addict is ONE WHO KNOWS HE SHOULD STOP, BUT CAN NOT, or described as someone who loses time from work and family because of this uncontrollable drive, someone whose life is heading to ruination, it hit me. Those words described me to a tee. I was seeing myself and my uncontrollable life mirrored in the words of so many others, I couldn't believe it! I WAS NOT ALONE.

All the years of acting out; the guilt and the shame; the hours glued to bad sites while family time and parnose slipped away; the lying to my children who'd call me at work and ask "when are you coming home, Ta?" And I'd close my eyes to the screen to say "I have to work late", then open them up again after the call to keep watching for hours more... And the self hate, the loathing, the name calling and cursing of myself I did when I'd drive home at 3 am, the promises to Hashem, and then breaking them the very next morning. Days, months, YEARS lost, and I thought I could climb out of it on my own one day.

Duvid Chaim and the brave members of our crew have shown me the real way out of this decrepit existence, toward a life of freedom from this "lust addiction", and hopefully from my other shortcomings as well.

On the calls I found people whom I could talk to thru the blessed veil of anonymity, to discover who I really am and find how I could heal, and on the forum I found the rest of you, inspirational and needy both, and I've been blessed that I could help a little here and there. What I love best is that the time I would have spent on my computer pushing Hashem out of the world, I am now using to pull Him back in, into my life and the life of others.

Thanx to Duvid Chaim, I am on the road to recovery. It was hard to accept that "I'm a pickle, and will never be a cucumber again." He showed me logically the truth behind it. But I never really understood the depth of my emotional loss at that recognition until I read Letakein's amazing poem, Falling Leaves. She wrote that to help herself heal, but by sharing it, she MADE me heal. I wasn't afraid to take the next step, to Let Go and Let G-d, to trust His re-creating me into something new, even tho I do not know where it's heading.

So, my friends (and it means so much to me to be able to call y'all that), I will be using this journal to share with you my ups and downs (which I'm sure I'll have – we're only human), Please forgive me if it's not as dramatic, or filled with "near brink disasters" as so many of you brave people have to fight every day. I stand in awe of your strengths, your courage and your honesty. THIS is the place on earth for real Milchomas Hashem.

I will try my best to post everyday, and the next few days I'll add short installments of the BIG inspiration I had just before this Shabbos, on Erev Chanukah, that I'm still flying high from. The A & W's just kept rolling in, so stay tuned!!

Even tho I've been clean now since starting the calls 7 weeks ago, I'm gonna start my 90-day count as of Monday, the third day of Chanukah. Marked for my memory by my physical birthday, but in honor of my spiritual re-birth thru the 12-Steps and ALL of GYE.

Starting this Chanukah, may we all be blessed together to move far away from the Great Darkness that has owned us until now, and come into the GREAT LIGHT of Hashem's Love.

Kein Yehi Ratzon.

Steve.

Posted by habaletaheer - 07 Jan 2010 04:31

I've been reading your stuff on a variety of threads.... Good stuff Steve, you are mamaesh dialed in! Hat's off 2 u!!!

Posted by Steve - 07 Jan 2010 04:33

Now what's your opinion on the sunject at hand, hmmmmmmmmmmmm.....?

Posted by habaletaher - 07 Jan 2010 04:37

I'm not ready to answer this one...

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Posted by Steve - 07 Jan 2010 16:08

[habaletaher wrote on 07 Jan 2010 04:37:](#)

Velo matzassi laguff tov min hashtika...

Haba, you are a whole lot wiser than this old retch.

I wish I had had your foresight. Now it seems I have hurt some feelings. I gave the impression I was jumping on someone else's bandwagon, when I was only seeking clarification. I only meant to encourage introspection. I never imagined it could do damage. I thought i was being careful to express myself in a non-accusatory way, but it was not interpreted that way. If I had known that, been wiser like you, I never would have added these thoughts to anyone's thread but my own. Maybe not even here.

If you know anyone who was effected, please let them know that I posted the following here. I don't have the courage to send it directly to anyone.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO EVERYONE:

I am really, truly sorry that i have upset people, men & women, on this heilige forum. I have a deep respect and concern for all of you, and I feel terrible that I upset the balance between friends whose fellowship runs much deeper and longer than my presence here. I am especially upset with myself because there are those whose resolve had weakened due to my comments, because of the RID I caused them, and perhaps c"v even felt a sense of betrayal - here I had been someone who gave them chizuk and cared (and very sincerely, please believe me!), and now I'm someone who has caused them pain. And in their own threads, which is supposed to be their safe haven, where they have every right to express themselves freely, and now they think i am trying to take that right away or make them feel guilty for exercising that right.

And I have been woken up to the tremendously UNFAIR and difficult strain that the ladies are constantly faced with, looking over their shoulders to see if their innocent words and acts are construed by self-conscious and judgmental men as un-sniyus. They are just being themselves, and have every right to do so. It is OUR problem, MY problem, not theirs. A judgmental man does not belong reading the women's forum, if any at all. We must learn to respect the opinion, level, and personality of every member of these pages.

To be honest, I imagine I'm not alone in my envy of the Women of Valour I've met here, and in life. Their easy going friendly banter is something sorely lacking in the testosterone-oriented male world. Most men don't know how to let their guard down, and be themselves. Your rich relationships, and your closely emotional yet wise connections to Hashem and other human beings, makes me realize how much more fulfilling your lives can be than mine. The male world of "work" and "don't feel" is a very lonely one, ladies. And that is what brings so many men over to read and watch what's going on at the Women's forums. Deep down, we are jealous of your beautiful lives, and we want that for ourselves, but don't know how to get there among ourselves. And we are all hard-pressed to admit that, cuz it's not macho.

I believe it is very important to for the holy men and holy women on this forum to continue to communicate and commune with each other on the neshamadige level they have been on. We ALL at times get even greater chizuk just knowing we have friends out there that understand us, and that speak the same language. That is true friendship, true support that really counts. The ability to laugh together only strengthens you, and after all your hard work and beautiful months of growing, you do not deserve to have your resolves threatened because of numbskulls like me.

I've said this before, and it deserves repeating here: We have an opportunity at GYE to develop that care and concern for the neshama of each other, no matter what their gender is. I think every younger man on this forum will make a better husband one day because of how he is treating the young ladies on this forum today. He has learned how to be sensitive and understanding, and how to lift another with good humor, not just with lectures.

I should have done what everyone here already knows: Trusted Reb Guard and the other Moderators. If they saw no reason to intervene, then the comraderie and expression are more than acceptable, they are as i said above, perfectly in line with the heilige purpose of this site. *Who the heck do I think I am, anyway?*

I sincerely apologize. Please forgive me. And let me know what i can do to "make it right."

With a heart heavy and hurting itself,

Steve, (the guy with the pickle-juice all over his face...)

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by letakain - 07 Jan 2010 16:22

thank you

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by humanbeing - 07 Jan 2010 18:29

Im Efhser Lekalkel Efhse Letaken...Something like that... Your alright Steve...You really were there for me when I needed you...I'm confident you'll continue to be.

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by imtrying25 - 07 Jan 2010 18:49

Steve im nt sure what your talking about. To me it sure seemed that you were balancing things out quite well. Oh well i guess you cant always win. :-\ :-\ :-\ :-\

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by Steve - 07 Jan 2010 19:54

Well, IT, it's like this...

I never meant to accuse any woman or man that they were consciously using cute spelling and slang to flirt. I never expected it would make the girls feel angry and no longer safe at GYE. And I NEVER would suggest that any of the posts on this forum would trigger anyone. Everyone has always been so careful.

All I suggested was introspection. It was my stupidity and lack of understanding - the holy women are more introspective than I'll ever be!! They have already **DONE** that, and I added fuel to the fire started by someone else by suggesting that we all need to examine ourselves again. **I insulted their already proven integrity.**

I meant well, but I hurt those I never wanted to hurt. And i just discovered Habib left. It pains me to think I might have been partially to blame. G-d in Heaven, I hope not!!

Mom is right, that her daughters are pulling it together and coming out stronger for the adversity. I so want to visit their threads and tell them how proud I am of how they've handled it, and to say I'm sorry to Trying especially, but I'm afraid i'm not welcome there anymore.

Was i really part of the problem? Am I being neurotic over here?

Please someone give me a perspective. I'm not really able to function very well right now....

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by TrYiNg - 08 Jan 2010 01:54

and to say I'm sorry to Trying especially, but I'm afraid i'm not welcome there anymore.

oh..steve!

I don't have any more words. I think i already told you everything . None of it was your fault. Your posts have proven time and time again what I alway knew..your intentions were good and that's all that matters.

You are ALWAYS welcome on my thread.

In fact , I consider it a compliment and honor that you have chosen to do so.

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by Steve - 08 Jan 2010 04:24

No Way, Hose. This Dilly won't be so silly no mo-ah.

Now I understand better the "magic" of a 9th Step Call. Or was that a 9th Step Post? Or a 9th Step Email...?

Someone once said that it is better to forgive than be forgiven. They are off their rocking Chair!
So, pickle aint in a pickle anymore??
Being forgiven is

GEVALDIG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(note the subtle use of pink, ladies....)

Maybe I'll be able to get some work done around here, instead of walkin' around with my tail between my legs.

(i know, IT, pickles don't have tails...beat ya to it!!)

G'nite y'all.

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by habaletaher - 08 Jan 2010 10:44

Dear Reb Steve,

Your last couple of posts earned you a Reb in your title, you displayed an incredible depth of emotion, insight, and courage. Don't get in a pickle, you're fine, we are all fine, everyone is fighting for the same thing, we just all have different weapons and use them differently sometimes, which causes a little pain and confusion here and there, but that itself is part of the growth of this incredible GYE community!

Keep Rocking in the Free World!!

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by imtrying25 - 08 Jan 2010 12:00

(i know, IT, pickles don't have tails...beat ya to it!!)

At least i can say im second only to STEVE. Cmon man pipe it down. Ya did nuttin wrong. Your only a pickle dont forget. Peolpe dont usually listen to pickles much. Or else they are really sour!! :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D :D

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by stevec613 - 08 Jan 2010 15:45

Steve - you are the best - Keep up the good work - do not be detracted. You are a voice of reason. We are addicts and will get our fix any way we can (even if it means flirting on GYE) - I for one will take your comments as a way to strengthen myself and be more careful.

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Re: Steve's Journal

Posted by letakain - 08 Jan 2010 16:22

steve, yu da man!

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