

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS TETZAVEH

Broken and Whole at the Same Time

In this week's Parsha, Parshas Tetzaveh, Hashem tells Moshe, "And you should command the children of Israel, and they should take to you, pure olive oil, crushed for illumination, to kindle, (literally: to lift up), the lamp, regularly."

To get the purest olive oil, the olive must be crushed in a mortar. The first drop expressed was used for producing the oil and only this oil could be used to light the menorah. The remainder of the olive was ground to extract more oil, but this oil was not for the menorah.

What can we learn from this?

The kindling of the menorah symbolized lighting up the souls of the Jewish people. For this, only the purest olive oil, extracted through crushing, was used.

The purest comes out through being crushed. It is "the crushed" that ignites Jewish souls.

WHEN CRUSHED, THE OLIVE BECOMES A SOURCE OF LIGHT AND WARMTH

We all are "crushed." We are tested with suffering in one form or another. What we do with it is our choice. You can choose to "grind," to wallow in self-pity, or you can use your "crushing" experience to lift up those around you.

Choosing to use your experience for the positive, will not only uplift those around you, but it will give

meaning and purpose to your situation.

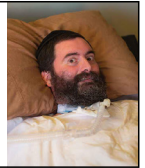
Before, I was talented. I could teach, lecture, sing, dance, play guitar, and I was strong and handy. Within two years, I watched that all slip away. Now I'm left with my heart, my brain, and my smile. Being crushed has brought stronger connections, new abilities, higher purpose, and deeper meaning.

Before, I used my talents to make people happy and to educate them. Now I get to do that, and much more.

With this attitude, I have gained an added extra. I feel happy and fulfilled, and the people around me seem happy and uplifted.

Yet, it is time for the crushing to end, and enjoying the light to begin.

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



"Dear Rabbi Yitzi,

What a pleasure it was to read your words on Friday night in a Crown Heights Shul by the name of "Khal Chassidim" -- Baumgarten's Shul. It was Parshas Mishpatim and the article was titled "Serve Hashem and No Other." This is indeed our mission today, to see Hashem as everything we truly need, and not just that, but also to act upon it wholeheartedly. I don't usually send a personal response to Dvar Torahs, or send emails to those who take the time to write them. However, you gave me a zetz with your accurate words and I decided that the least I can do is say thank you...

...In your merit, I will, G-d willing, give more attention to my prayers during the week, to take myself away from the rat race and go back to my core, my essence, hopefully to the level of Shabbat prayers. It's difficult, but I will dedicate myself to such a mission. Thank you."

- EG. Brooklyn, NY

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
(937) 770-4802 | TORAHFROMMYEYES@GMAIL.COM

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RABBI YITZI & DINA HURWITZ
IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF THEIR
GRANDSON
· BY ANONYMOUS ·

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