

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAS VAYECHI

A Parent's Living Will

In Parshas Vayechi, we read about Yaakov's last words to his children and Yosef's last words to his brothers. In the Haftora, we read of King David's last words of advice and instruction to his son Shlomo.

From both the Parsha and the Haftora, we see the importance of advising our children before the day comes.

The thing is that we don't know when that day will come. As for me, Hashem has chosen to give me ALS, and since the diagnosis, the day has been staring me in the face. My wife Dina, and good friends whose parents have passed on, have been trying to impress upon me the importance of writing a living will. At first, I was being stubborn, not wanting to consider the suggestion that the day might come. But then, a few of my

friends suddenly passed, which got me thinking that it is probably a good idea for everyone to do, even those that are healthy.

Now that I have started, it has become so meaningful to me, as it has given me

a clarity of what I really want for my family in general and for my wife and each of my children specifically. I don't plan to wait for them to find out when my time comes. As

soon as I am done, I will share it with them so that they know how I feel about them, what I think they are capable of, and what I wish for them.

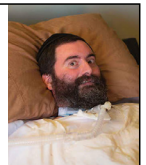
A father's and mother's advice is so powerful and cherished by their children. Even if they ignore it now, eventually, it will have a tremendous impact.

My suggestion to every parent and anyone who has been a teacher or mentor to someone they truly care about. Start the process of writing a living will, and you will find it meaningful. It will give you clarity, and your family will be grateful that you did it.

May we be a guiding light to our families and merit Hashem's blessing to see them turn better than we could have imagined. May they be a nachas to Hashem, to the Jewish people, and especially to us.

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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.



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