

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAT TAZRIA-METZORAH

Overcoming Life's Challenges

This week, we read a double-Parsha, Tazria-Metzorah. They speak about the laws of a Metzorah, one who contracted a spiritual affliction called Tzaras.

The first Parsha, Tazria, told all the laws of diagnosing and quarantining the Metzorah. This second Parsha, Metzorah, tells of the purification process the Metzorah would undergo to re-enter the Jewish camp.

The purification process starts with the words, "This is the Torah of the Metzorah." However, looking back at the laws of diagnosing and quarantining, there is no such preface. Wouldn't it have made sense to say, "This is the Torah of the Metzorah" at the start of the laws of the Metzorah? Why wait until the purification process to say this?

The real question is, what do you see when you meet a Metzorah? Do you focus on the ailment or on the possibility of re-entering? How does the Metzorah view himself? Does he see himself as an outcast or as a person who was granted the opportunity and the time to search his ways and refine himself to have a more meaningful existence upon re-entry?

Therefore by the purification and re-entry, the Torah says, "This is the Torah of the Metzorah." The focus needs to be on the positive.

It is natural for us to focus on the negative. When our children or students misbehave or when life hands us a devastating blow, it is easy to focus on the negative.

WE ALL SUFFER HARDSHIPS AND PAIN; IT'S WHAT WE DO WITH THEM THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

be quarantined. These steps may be necessary, but they need to ultimately be trumped by positive, purposeful thinking and action.

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I remember when I was finished my first round of

tests. The neurologist gave me his preliminary findings "You have bulbar ALS." I had no idea what it meant. He explained the severity of it to me and said he was going to refer me to an ALS specialist.

I was there alone. Walking out of his office into the empty hallway, I broke down in a fit of bitter tears. When I composed myself, I headed out of the building. The first thing I witnessed stepping out was a young man falling to the ground and having a seizure. I ran to help him.

It dawned upon me that there is still much purpose for me. I decided that regardless of the outcome of any future "tests," I would remain positive and find ways to fill life with meaning and purpose.

This has turned my life and the lives of those around me happier and by far more fulfilling.

We all suffer hardships and pain; it's what we do with them that makes the difference.

"This" is the Torah of the Metzorah.

"Rabbi Hurwitz is busy hastening the coming of the Moshiach every day, IYH. He is an inspiration to each and every one of us."

- Tania G, Florida

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

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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