

**SIGN UP
FOR WEEKLY EMAILS!**

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY AGAIN!

PARSHAS TOLDOS

Yitzchak's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of fresh water.

The psukim here are puzzling. First the Torah tells us that Yitzchok dug a few times until he found water. When the ownership of those wells was disputed, he dug others until he found water. Why does the Torah give a lengthy description of Yitzchok's attempts to find water?

*"And Yitzchok's servants dug... and found a well of water. And the herdsmen of Grerar... said, 'the water is ours'.... And Yitzchok's servant dug another well, and they also fought over that... And Yitzchok's servants dug another well, and the herdsmen of Grerar didn't fight over that."
(Bereishis 26:19-22)*

Many of the most successful people in the world, whether they are businessmen, sports figures, or just ordinary people all encountered difficulties before their accomplishments. Had they given-up after their initial failure, they would not have achieved their triumphs.

❖ **The Chofetz Chaim explains** that the Torah is teaching us a very important lesson from this:

NEVER GIVE UP! When you start something, don't give up because you run into difficulties. This applies to both material and spiritual matters. Be persistent when things don't go the way you want. If at first, a business venture doesn't work as planned, don't give up, right away. Try again. If learning Torah is difficult at first, don't give up! Keep trying and persisting. Often, the reason for failure is that you gave up too soon. If you are determined and keep trying, there is a greater likelihood you will succeed.

In the early 1800's, there was a young boy who was not trying hard enough in Yeshiva. His parents tried, without success, to encourage him to put more effort into his Torah learning. Finally, in despair, the boy's parents decided to take their son out of Yeshiva and send him to learn a trade. When their son overheard what they said, he burst out crying and begged for one more chance. He was given the chance, became more serious, and learned very well. This boy became the great Torah luminary known as Rav Naftoli Tzvi Yehudah Berlin; the Netziv. The Netziv was Rosh Yeshiva of the famed Volozhin Yeshiva for almost 40 Years!

NEVER GIVE UP! YOU CAN SUCCEED IF YOU KEEP TRYING!