

**TWO “MAGNIFICENT STANDARDS”—HUMILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY—
and SEVEN ATTRIBUTES of our SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.**

A “Threads of Recovery” Big Book Study Workshop: April 4 through June 27, 2022.

(Page cites from Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition, unless otherwise noted)

“As we know, all A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: **humility** and **responsibility**. Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards. Ever deepening humility, accompanied by an ever greater willingness to accept and to act upon clear-cut obligations—these are truly our touchstones for all growth in the life of the spirit. They hold up to us the very essence of right being and right doing. It is by them that we are enabled to find and do God’s will.”

Bill W. speech at GSC, 1965 (silkworth.net)

Steps One through Six produce enough **humility** in us for us to try to fulfill our real purpose—“to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us”. (p. 77)

“That basic ingredient of all **humility**, a desire to seek and do God’s will ...”. (T&T, p. 72)

“... **humility** ... to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God.” (T&T, p. 76)

Our **responsibility** grows in Steps Seven through Twelve. We become responsible to share our spiritual awakening with alcoholics—try to practice these principles in all our affairs.

“I am **responsible**. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am **responsible**.” Al S. speech at GSC, 1965

In this study we also see how seven attributes of the Twelve Step spiritual principles enable our “personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism ...” (p. 567):

Honesty grows in us in Steps One, Two and Three, and continues forward;

Forgiveness grows in us in Steps Four and Five, and continues forward;

Trust grows in us in Steps Six and Seven, and continues forward;

Consideration grows in us in Steps Eight and Nine, and continues forward;

Love and **Tolerance** grow in us in Steps Ten and Eleven, and continue forward;

Service grows in us in Step Twelve, and continues forward in our Spiritual Awakening.

.....
In Steps One, Two and Three, I become **honest** about my alcoholism illness, my “objectionable” drinking and my need for a spiritual solution. In Steps Four and Five, I discover my selfish motivations. I **trust** God to “save me from being angry”, guiding me towards **forgiveness** (p. 67); to remove my fear ... what God “would have [me] be” (p. 68); I **trust** God to “mold [my] ideals and help [me] live up to them”, to be **considerate** of others (p. 69). I develop **humility**, a “desire to seek and do God’s will”. In Step Six, I become **humble** enough to **trust** God to grant me willingness to “let go” of my “objectionable” defects of character. In Step Seven, I become **responsible** enough to **trust** God to “remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to [God] and my fellows”.

Now, in Step Eight, my **humility** and **responsibility** grow as I **trust** God to grant me the willingness to practice **consideration** of others. I am **responsible** to complete my list of people I have harmed. I ask God for the willingness to make **considerate** amends to each of them.

*In Step Eight, I accept **responsibility** for the wrong things I did to others and the harms that I caused them. I am willing to be **considerate** of them as I prepare to make my amends.*

**TWO “MAGNIFICENT STANDARDS”—HUMILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY—
and SEVEN ATTRIBUTES of our SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.**

A “Threads of Recovery” Big Book Study Workshop: April 4 through June 27, 2022.

(Page cites from Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition, unless otherwise noted)

Two “Magnificent Standards”—Humility and Responsibility—and the attribute of Consideration.

Responsibility and Consideration in Step Eight.

“We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory.” (p. 76)

I should not be surprised by Step Eight. Amends are part of “Bill’s Story”:

“Upon a foundation of complete willingness ...” **(Responsible)** (p. 12)

“... humble willingness to have [God] with me ...” “

“... a list of people I had hurt ... willingness ... admitting my wrong.” (p. 13)

“Never was I to be critical of them.” **(Considerate)** “

“Faith without works is dead. Let’s look at *Steps Eight and Nine*.” (p. 76)

I am **responsible**. I “**work**”—I write my Step Eight list of all those I have harmed. I become **considerate** toward those on my list because I have asked God to “save me from being angry”; to “remove my fear and what He would have [me] be”; to “mold [my] Ideals and help [me] live up to them”. (Step Four) I **trust** God. I use my “**faith**” to make my list.

*I am **responsible** to make my list of people I wronged and the harm I caused them. I pray for the willingness to not only make the amends but for being **considerate** of them when I do.*

“Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves.” (p. 76)

Before my direct amends action in Step Nine, I see in Step Eight that the “debris” of my self-will driven past—my guilt, regret, remorse and shame—are each a “defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to [God] and my fellows.” (Step Seven) This is an answer to my Step Three prayer, “relieve me of the bondage of self”.

*My taking **responsibility** to become willing to make my amends while being **considerate** to others is God’s priority for me “as I go out from here to do [God’s] bidding”. (Step Seven)*

“If we haven’t the will to do this, we ask until it comes.” (p. 76)

“... we will never get over drinking until we ... straighten out the past.” (p. 77)

“We do not dodge our creditors.” (p. 78)

“... go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience ... strength and direction ...” (p. 79)

“... not ... needlessly sacrifice others to save himself from the alcoholic pit.” “

“... place the outcome in God’s hands or he would soon start drinking again ...” (p. 80)

*With Step Eight, I am **considerate** to myself that my sobriety is ever important. I am **responsible** in my recovery to ask God to help me make amends—“straighten out [my] past”.*

Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us.” (p. 77)

Relief from my “bondage of self” is found when I accept and adopt this as my personal purpose for living. Amending my wrongs to others “fits” me for this purpose.

*My **responsible** Step Eight list and my **considerate** prayers are essential to this purpose.*

**TWO “MAGNIFICENT STANDARDS”—HUMILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY—
and SEVEN ATTRIBUTES of our SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.**

A “Threads of Recovery” Big Book Study Workshop: April 4 through June 27, 2022.

(Page cites from Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition, unless otherwise noted)

Observations on Responsibility and Consideration in Step Eight.

1. Elements of Steps One and Two are interwoven in the first 60 pages of the Big Book. Likewise, elements of Steps Eight and Nine are interwoven in pp. 76-83 in our book.
2. In my early recovery, I was **responsible** to list in Step Eight every person I ever wronged and harmed. But I did not ask God for the willingness to make **considerate** amends to each one. I received little relief from the bondage of my guilt, regret, remorse and shame.
3. “... we should admit our fault.” (p. 81) This is my **responsibility** to be **considerate** in each amend I make. God did not create me to do what I want, but to do what God wants. (p. 77)
4. “... we have no right to involve another person.” (p. 81) This is part of my **responsibility** as I pray for willingness to make **considerate** amends to each person on my Step Eight list.
5. “God willing, it shall not be repeated.” (p. 81) I use this prayer in Step Eight for each amend I will make. I also use this prayer in my Step Nine direct amends. My willingness comes from God’s Power, Love and Way of life (Step Three). I am **responsible** to ask for God’s Power to help me. “We asked God to mold our ideals ...”—to be **considerate** of others.
6. “We feel a man is unthinking when he says that sobriety is enough.” (p. 82) I am in AA for spiritual recovery, not just physical sobriety. I am **responsible** to seek God’s help to grow in my spiritual awakening, as I prepare to make **considerate** amends in Step Eight.
7. “Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead ... our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, kindness and love.” (p. 83) I am **responsible** to include these **considerations** for myself and others as part of my Step Eight prayers.
8. “Faith without works is dead”. Certainty is the mark of the common-sense life. Uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. I am uncertain of the outcome of my amends. My **faith** in God strengthens me to be **responsible** and **considerate** as I make my list; do my amends **work**.
9. In Step Eight, my desire to prepare to make **responsible** and **considerate** amends to the people I have harmed is enabled by my “humble willingness to have [God] with me.” (p 12)
10. In Step Eight, I take **responsibility** for the wrongs I have done in the past, to be free of the “bondage” of my selfish past, so that I can treat others with **consideration** in the present.
11. I need God’s strength to “want to”, “to be”, as well as “to do”. My prayer for willingness in Step Eight gives me the “want to” to be **responsible** for my past wrongs, and the “want to”, the willingness, to treat others with **consideration** when I make my amends.
12. In Step Eight, I take my eighth risk in the Spiritual Awakening of my recovery from alcoholism. I risk taking **responsibility** for my past wrongs and harms done to others, while asking God to help me be **considerate** of others in the uncertain process ahead.

“Remember it was agreed at the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol.”

Next Time: Responsibility and Consideration in Step Nine