

Now comes the biggest question yet?

What about the practice of these principles in *all* our affairs?

We begin today with a series of questions:

The “Can we...” questionnaire.

1. “Can we love the whole pattern of living as eagerly as we do the small segment of it we discover when we try to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety?”
2. “Can we bring the same spirit of love and tolerance into our, sometimes deranged family lives that we bring to our A.A. group?”
3. “Can we have the same kind of confidence and faith in these people who have been infected and sometimes crippled by our own illness that we have in our sponsors?”
4. “Can we actually carry the A.A. spirit into our daily work?”
5. “Can we meet our newly recognized responsibilities to the world at large?”
6. Can we bring new purpose and devotion to the religion of our choice?”
7. “Can we find a new joy of living in trying to do something about all of these things?”

“How shall we come to terms with seeming failure or success?” (Pg 112)

8. “Can we now accept and adjust to either (failure or success) without despair or pride?”
9. “Can we accept poverty, sickness, loneliness, and bereavement with courage and serenity?”
10. “Can we steadfastly content ourselves with the humbler, yet sometimes more durable satisfactions when the brighter, more glittering achievements are denied us?”
11. “Can we get the resources to meet these calamities which come to so many?”
12. “Can we now, with the help of God, as we understand him, handle them as well and as bravely as our non-alcoholic friends often do?”
13. “Can we transform these calamities into assets, sources of growth and comfort to ourselves and those about us?”

“Yes, all of these things are possible.” **How?**

Conditional promises:

- a. “We know this because we see monotony, pain and even calamity turned to good use (the promise) by those who keep on trying to practice (the condition) A.A.’s Twelve Steps.” (there’s that word “practice” again) (Pg 112, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph)
- b. “we surely have a chance **if** we switch from “Two-stepping” to “Twelve-stepping”
- c. “**if** we are willing to receive that grace of God which can sustain and strengthen us in any catastrophe.” (Pg 113 last paragraph)
- d. “When an honest effort is made “to practice these principles in all our affairs,” well grounded A.A.’s seem to have the ability, by God’s grace, to take these troubles in stride and turn them into demonstrations of faith.” (Pg 114, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)
- e. “Our answer is in still more spiritual development. Only by this means can we improve our chances for really happy and useful living.”
- f. “As we grow spiritually, we find that our old attitudes towards our instincts need to undergo drastic revisions.”
- g. “But when we are willing to place spiritual growth first – then and only then do we have a real chance.”
- h. “if we go on growing, our attitudes and action towards security – emotional security and financial security – commence to change profoundly.” (Pg 115) Echoing the 9<sup>th</sup> step promises.

Getting “quite far off the beam”: (Pg 112, last paragraph)

How?

- a. Indifference
- b. Temporarily “cease to grow”
- c. Two Stepping: Step 1 and Step 12, via service only, “carry the message”. (Pg 113, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph)

What happens? (Pg 113)

1. Things go disappointingly dull
2. We begin to think A.A. doesn’t pay off after all
3. We become puzzled and discouraged
4. “we shall be pulled backwards into disillusionment.”

Emotional Security, Demands and Dependencies

1. Mentioned 6 times from page 115 -116
  - a. “Our demand for emotional security, for our own way, had constantly thrown us into unworkable relations with other people. (Pg 115) echos of Step 3, 4, 8

Answer? Solution? Pg 116