

“GOD WILL CONSTANTLY DISCLOSE MORE TO YOU AND TO US”

A Big Book Study of What God Discloses to Us in Each of the Twelve Steps.
A Spiritual Awakening of Limitation, leading to Opportunity, resulting in Liberation.
A “Threads of Recovery” Workshop—October 3 through December 26, 2022

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

“We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.”

To me, this is one of the most powerful humility statements in Alcoholics Anonymous. I am content with “we realize we know only a little”. I don’t have to know everything to live a sober, safe, secure and serene life. God discloses to me everything I need to know for today.

I am more than just alcoholic. I have all of the normal human characteristics—ideas, attitudes and emotions—hopes and dreams—joys and fears—excitement and sadness—gains and loss. As an alcoholic, I also have extreme self-will. God has given us the Twelve Steps as a set of spiritual guidelines to put healthy limits on our self-will—to align our will with God’s will.

When I decide to learn to apply the Twelve Steps in my life, I am deciding to do more than not drink. I am deciding to learn how to use my God-given self-will in line with God’s will for me and others. This process begins with my willingness to accept and apply what God is **disclosing** to me through the Twelve Steps, so that I can be in “right relationship” with God.

God discloses things to me in at least three ways: circumstances in my life; other peoples’ experience; and, more and more, in the form of inspiration.

“Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now.” (p. 58) *I share my story with you. God discloses more to me about me!*

*In Steps One through Six, God discloses to me certain **limitations** of mine for me to accept and specific spiritual **opportunities** for me to grow my spiritual awakening.*

*In Steps Seven through Twelve, God discloses more spiritual **opportunities** for me to grow my spiritual awakening that result in **liberation** for me from my “bondage of self”.*

.....
Step Twelve: “**Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**”

“... real tolerance of other people’s shortcomings and viewpoints and a respect for their opinions are attitudes which make us more useful to others.” (pp. 19-20)

The first nine steps are the foundation of my spiritual awakening. Step Ten guides me each day to continue to ask God to help me be less selfish, dishonest, resentful and afraid in my actions. With Step Eleven, I seek God’s help throughout the day to divorce me from selfish, self-seeking motives, thoughts and actions. I increase my conscious contact with God.

In Step Twelve, “there is action and more action. ‘Faith without works is dead’.” (p. 88) *I accept my **limitations** and see my **spiritual opportunity** to share my spiritual awakening with other alcoholics. I try to practice the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps with every person in my life. I have **liberation** from “bondage of self” as God discloses to me “**Giving to Receive**”.*

“We hope you are convinced now that God can remove whatever self-will has blocked you off from Him.” (p. 71)

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The Disclosure of the Power of “Giving to Receive”: Step Twelve. Spiritual Opportunity and Liberation from Bondage of Self.

“... waves of self-pity and resentment ... work with another alcoholic ...”. Bill W. (p. 15)
“I spend a great deal of time passing on what I learned to others ...” Dr. Bob S. (p. 180)

Chapter 7. Trying to “give” the message of my spiritual awakening to another alcoholic.

“Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can.” (p. 89)
“... one of a fellowship who, as part of their own recovery, try to help others ...” (p. 90)
“Tell him exactly what happened to you ... the main thing is that he be willing to believe in a Power greater than himself and that he live by spiritual principles.” (p. 93)
“... faith must be accompanied by self-sacrifice and unselfish, constructive action.” “
“Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery.” (p. 97)
“Both you and the new man must walk day by day in the path of spiritual progress.” (p. 100)
“Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful.” (p. 102)
(See “Our real purpose ...”, p. 77)

Chapter 8. Trying to practice (“give”) the spiritual principles in the marriage relationship.

“... no situation is too difficult and no unhappiness too great to be overcome.” (p. 104)
“Let him see that you want to be helpful rather than critical.” (p. 111)
“If God can solve the age-old riddle of alcoholism, He can solve your problems too.” (p. 116)
“Now we try to put spiritual principles to work in every department of our lives.” “
“Patience, tolerance, understanding and love are the watchwords.” (p. 118)
“... place the problem, along with everything else, in God’s hands” (p. 120)

Chapter 9. Trying to practice (“give”) the spiritual principles in the family relationship.

“... meet upon the common ground of tolerance, understanding and love.” (p. 122)
“... in God’s hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have ...” (p. 124)
“... temper such talk by a spirit of love and tolerance.” (p. 125)
“... crankiness, depression, or apathy ... will disappear when there is tolerance, love, and spiritual understanding.” (p. 127)
“... material well-being always followed spiritual progress; it never preceded.” “
“... spiritual life which does not include his family obligations may not be so perfect ...” (p. 129)
“... great sense of purpose ... consciousness of the power of God in our lives.” (p. 130)

Chapter 10. Trying to practice (“give”) the spiritual principles in the workplace.

“... can he be forgiven for what he has done in the past?” (p. 140)
“... you do not intend to lecture, moralize, or condemn ...” (p. 142)
“We all had to place recovery above everything ...” (p. 143)
“For he knows he must be honest if he would live at all.” (p. 146)

Chapter 11. Trying to practice (“give”) the spiritual principles “in all our affairs”.

“Then you will know what it means to give of yourself that others may survive ...”. (p. 153)
“But what about his responsibilities—his family ... those other alcoholics?” (p. 154)
“Both saw that they must keep spiritually active.” (p. 156)
“Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober, that motive ... transcended by the happiness they found in giving themselves for others.” (p. 159)
“We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.” (p. 164)

Next Time: Review and Observations regarding God’s Disclosures in the Twelve Steps.