

“WE HAD A NEW EMPLOYER”
Humility, Responsibility and Hope in Our New Relationship with Our “New Employer”

A Big Book Study of Spiritual Recovery from Alcoholism
in a Twelve-Step Workshop, from April 1 through June 24, 2024.

Facilitator: Bill H., St. Louis, Mo. USA

(All page numbers from Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition, unless otherwise noted.)

Introduction to the Study.

The A.A. Twelve Steps guide me into a healthy relationship with my “new Employer”.
My relationship with my new Employer becomes *desirable, possible* and *fulfilling*. My *belief* strengthens; my *faith* grows; my *trust* increases in *humility, responsibility* and *hope*.

What are the characteristics of my new Employer?

- knows more than I do about my spiritual needs, and my other needs, as well;
- has a plan of spiritual success for me and a proven path for me to follow;
- cares for me—wants to help me succeed on my path of spiritual restoration;
- “can remove whatever self-will has blocked [me] off from Him”;
- when I disagree with my new Employer, my new Employer still cares for me.

I learn to have a healthy relationship with my new Employer—

- in which my new Employer is in charge—and I am not in charge;
- in which I learn to have and enjoy *humility, responsibility* and *hope*;
- in which I learn to deal with all uncertainty in my life in a healthy way;
- in which I learn to live in forgiveness, love, tolerance and serenity.

Steps One, Two and Three make my relationship with my new Employer *desirable*.

I admit the powerlessness and unmanageability of my life “employed” by me and my “self-will run riot”. I discover a need to believe in a Power greater than myself that could become my new Employer. I decide to learn how to go to work for my new Employer.

Steps Four through Nine make my relationship with my new Employer *possible*.

I work the steps in faith. I learn to face, and to be rid of, the things in me that block me from my new Employer. I get a new attitude, a new relationship with my new Employer. I become willing to “let go” of my objectionable things so that I can “let God” grant me strength. I take responsibility for my wrongs and become accountable to amend them. I learn to enjoy working for my new Employer.

Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve make my relationship with my new Employer *fulfilling*.

I grow to trust my new Employer as I continue to work for my new Employer.

Step Five. “Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

(p. 59)

“We hope you are convinced now that {new Employer} can remove whatever self-will has blocked you off from [new Employer].”

(p. 71)

“Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it? We have been trying to get a new attitude, a new relationship with our [new Employer], and to discover the obstacles in our path ... admitted certain defects ... these are about to be cast out ... action on our part ... admitted ... exact nature of our wrongs.” (p. 72)

I seek to avoid pain. I learn in Step Five that getting honest is less painful than living in “self-will run riot”. I trust my new Employer and one other person to help me “pocket my pride” and admit my motives that underlie my wrong behavior—the “exact nature of my wrongs”.

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The Step Five Preparation. (*Becoming humble, not prideful; trusting, not fearful.*)

“... solitary self-appraisal insufficient ... may not overcome drinking.” (p. 72)

“... avoid this humbling experience ... never completed ... housecleaning.” (pp. 72-73)

“... *thought* they had humbled themselves ... not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty, in the sense we find it necessary ...” (p. 73)

“More than most people, the alcoholic leads a double life.” (p. 73)

“We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world.” (pp. 73-74)

“... the right person ... keep a confidence ... understand and approve what we are driving at ... not try to change our plan ... a life and death errand.” (pp. 74-75)

I apply my Steps Three and Four prayers to keep my new Employer “in the room” with us, helping me set aside my pride and my fear— illuminating” my Step Five admissions:

God, relieve me of the bondage of my self-justifying pride and my self-centered fear.

God, please help me show “them” tolerance, pity and patience.

God, please save me from being angry so that I can be responsible for my wrongs.

God, please remove my fear. God, please disclose to me what You would have me be.

God, please mold my ideals and help me live up to them.

God, I regret what I have done. Please forgive me and help me feel forgiven.

The Step Five Action. (*Setting aside pride and fear; becoming responsible for my wrongs.*)

“We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past.” (p. 75)

“... pride ... self-justification ... the chief block to true progress. Pride lures us into making demands upon ourselves or upon others which cannot be met without perverting or misusing our God-given instincts.” (12x12, pp. 48-49)

“All these failings generate fear ... generates more character defects.” (12x12, p. 49)

“The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear—primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or would fail to get something we demanded.” (12x12, p. 76)

The Step Five Promises. (*My hope born in Steps Two, Three and Four grows in Step Five.*)

“Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted ...” (p. 75)

My humility from Steps One through Four helps me be responsible and hopeful in Step Five.

I move from doubt to “believe-that” to “faith-in” to “trust with” the care of my new Employer.

“We thank God from the bottom of our heart that we know [our new Employer] better.” (p. 75)

Next Time, Step Six. Pray to be willing to “let go” of my resistance to my new Employer.