

“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.

“First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn’t work.” (p. 62)

“When we sincerely took such a position ... we had a new Employer.” (p. 63)

In Alcoholics Anonymous, the Twelve Steps take us from unhealthy, worsening relationships with our selves, and others, into a healthy relationship with a “new Employer”.

We discover how this relationship with our new Employer becomes *desirable, possible and fulfilling*. We experience our *belief* strengthening; our *faith* growing; and our *trust* ever-increasing. We learn how to experience *humility*, exercise *responsibility* and grow in *hope*.

Steps One, Two and Three make our relationship with our new Employer *desirable*—
we discover a need and an opportunity to decide to work for our new Employer.

Steps Four through Nine make our relationship with our new Employer *possible*—
we come to work for, and learn to enjoy working for, our new Employer.

Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve make our relationship with our new Employer *fulfilling*—
we are enriched in spirit, mind and body as we work for our new Employer.

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.

In Step One, Alcoholics Anonymous presents information to me that convinces me that my former employer, “alcoholic me” and my “self-will run riot”, is not a healthy “employer”.

In Step Two, Alcoholics Anonymous presents information to me that convinces me that I should *stop doubting the possibility that a new spiritual Employer would be good for me*.

Step Two. “Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

(p. 59)

*I come to believe I need spiritual help or be doomed to an “alcoholic death”.
Stop doubting my need to “find work” with a “new Employer”.*

“Some of our alcoholic readers may think they can do without spiritual help.” (p. 27)

“*Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials of recovery.*” (p. 568)

“... humility, a desire to seek and do God’s will ... move toward God.” (12x12 pp. 72/77)

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Step Two. “Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.” (p. 59)

“... restore us to sanity.”

- “... that we were in full flight from reality, or were outright mental defectives.” (p. xxvi)
“... they cannot after time differentiate the true from the false.” (p. xxviii)
“... an entire psychic change ... psychic change ... psychic change.” (p. xxix)
“Was I crazy?” (p. 5)
“People feared for my sanity.” (p. 7)
“Rumor had it that he had been committed for alcoholic insanity.” (p. 9)
“Therefore, the main problem of the alcoholic centers in his mind ...” (p. 23)
“... the obsession that somehow, someday, they will beat the game.” “
“... *most alcoholics ... have lost the power of choice in drink.*” (p. 24)
“... the great obsession ... this illusion ... the delusion ...” (p. 30)
“... alcoholics of our type are in the grip of a progressive illness ... get worse ...” “
“... insanity ... insanely trivial excuse ... insane idea ... insanely insufficient ...” (p. 37)
“... where alcohol has been involved, we have been strangely insane.” (p. 38)

My restoration to sanity begins when I am aware, admit and accept that I am simply unable to make sane choices when it comes to alcohol. I humbly accept my need for help from a Power greater than myself. I humbly desire that a spiritual “new Employer” be there for me.

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could ...”

- “... in the Power that pulls alcoholics back from the gates of death.” (xxvii)
“... more than human power is needed to produce the essential psychic change.” (xxix)
“... *willing to believe in a Power greater than myself ... to make my beginning.*” (p. 12)
“*There is a solution ... accept spiritual help.*” (p. 25)
“... the way he established his relationship with God.” (p. 29)
“All went well for a time, but he failed to enlarge his spiritual life .” (p. 35)
“... spiritual principles would solve all my problems.” (p. 42)
“... no effective mental defense ... defense must come from a Higher Power.” (p. 43)
“To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis ...” (p. 44)

My choice is now clear—seek help to live from a spiritual “new Employer” ... or die!

- “... this book ... find a Power greater than yourself ... solve your problem.” (p. 45)
“... willingness to believe in a Power greater than ourselves.” (p. 46)
“... even willing to believe that there is a Power greater than myself?” (p. 47)
“Faced with alcoholic destruction, we soon became open-minded ...” (p. 48)
“Every one of them ... believes in a Power greater than himself.” (p. 50)
“... we had to stop doubting the Power of God.” (p. 52)
“God either is, or He isn’t. What was our choice to be?” (p. 53)
“... God restored us all to our right minds ... who have honestly sought Him.” (p. 57)

Next Time: Step Three. Decide with humility to go to work for my “new Employer”.