

“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.)

The A.A. Twelve Steps guide me into a healthy relationship with my “new Employer”.
Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve make my relationship with my new Employer *fulfilling*.

Step Eleven. “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact
with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for
us and the power to carry that out.” (p. 59)

“I was to sit quietly when in doubt, asking only for direction and strength ...” (p. 13)

“... consciousness of the presence of God ...most important fact of their lives ...” (p. 51)

“When we drew near to Him, [new Employer] disclosed Himself to us.” (p. 57)

“Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead ...
asking each morning in meditation that our [new Employer] show us the way of
patience, tolerance, kindness and love.” (p. 83)

“... receiving strength, inspiration, and direction from [new Employer] who has all
knowledge and power ... followed directions ... sense the flow of His Spirit into us ...
God-conscious ... vital sixth sense ... we must go further and that means more action.

Step Eleven suggests prayer and meditation.” (p. 85)

“Prayer” is me asking to do God’s will—not me giving instructions to God to do my will.

“Meditation” is me asking God to set aside my will so that I can seek God’s will for me.

The Six Parts of Daily Application of Step Eleven in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Part 1. “When we retire at night ...” (p. 86)

“... we constructively review our day. Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest or
afraid? Do we owe an apology ... should be discussed with another person ...?

*This is part of our daily inventory. We constructively review our Step Ten work of that
day. In this meditation we acknowledge our good work as well as our not-so-good work.*

“Were we kind and loving toward all ... done better ... thinking of ourselves ...
or others ...”

“Love and tolerance of others is our code”. How well did I live “our code” today?

“... be careful not to drift into worry, remorse or morbid reflection ... ask God’s
forgiveness ... inquire what corrective measures should be taken.” (Humility)

*I continue my “design for living” (p. 15) with a God-conscious Step Eleven nightly inventory
that completes my Step Ten daily “watch for” inventory. Prayer and meditation are working!*

*I end my day God-conscious, in prayer and meditation. My new Employer helps me focus on
forgiveness, not blame or shame. I leave the uncertainty with God. I sleep, with a stronger
belief in my new Employer and faith in God’s care, trusting that God will disclose more.*

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The Six Parts of Daily Application of Step Eleven (con’t)

Part 2. “On awakening ...” (p. 86)

“... we ask God to direct our thinking ... divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives ... God gave us brains to use ... thinking cleared of wrong motives.”
Alcoholics Anonymous does not tell me to “clear my mind”, but to seek God’s help to direct my thinking. Specifically, I am to let my new Employer help me divorce my thinking from “wrong motives”. With fewer “wrong motives”, I will say and do fewer “wrong things”.

Wow! My new Employer has taken me from “relieve me of the bondage of self” in Step Three to “grant me strength” in Step Seven (doing differently) to “Thy will (not mine) be done” in Step Ten (being different) to being divorced from “wrong motives” in Step Eleven. My will is now “God-conscious”, directed by my new Employer, not by my “self-will run riot”.

Part 3. “In thinking about our day ...” (pp. 86-87)

“... face indecision ... we ask God for inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision. We relax and take it easy. We don’t struggle ... the right answers come ... inspiration becomes a working part of the mind ... our thinking ... on the plane of inspiration.”
I learned in Step Ten, “we have entered the world of the Spirit.” I seek in meditation to let go of my control of my will. My new Employer inspires me—in the Spirit. I am “God-conscious”.

Part 4. “We usually conclude the period of meditation with a prayer ...” (p. 87)

“... what our next step is to be ... we be given whatever we need ...”. (Responsibility)
Step Eleven is not really about “knowing” all of God’s will for me, but to be God-conscious, to seek to know and do God’s will, as I go through each “step” of my day.

Part 5. Sharing and learning prayer and meditation with and from others. (p. 87)

“If circumstances warrant, we ask [others] to join us in morning meditation.”
“... memorize a few set prayers ... make use of what religious people ... offer.”
Alcoholics Anonymous did not “invent” the spiritual life. We borrowed from others.

Part 6. “As we go through the day we pause ...” (pp. 87-88)

“... when agitated or doubtful, and ask [my new Employer] for the right thought or action. We constantly remind ourselves that we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves many times each day, “Thy will be done.” (Hope)
We experience and live in the Step Eleven promises, “We are then in much less danger of excitement, fear, anger, worry, self-pity, or foolish decisions ... efficient ... not tire ...”

“It works—it really does.” (p. 88)

“We alcoholics are undisciplined. So we let [new Employer] discipline us in the simple way we have just outlined.” “

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Observations about 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*.

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

I am now aware of the powerlessness and unmanageability of my life “employed” by my “self-will run riot”. I accept my need to believe in a Power greater than myself that could become my new Employer. I decide to act, to learn how to work for, to seek the care of, 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 am willing to “let go” of my objectionable things. I “let God” grant me strength. I take responsibility for my wrongs. I become accountable to amend them. I develop a better relationship with myself and others.

Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve make my relationship with my new Employer *fulfilling*. I trust my new Employer more as I “work” for my new Employer, daily, with myself and others.

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 even 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.

What I learn from my new Employer’s “routine of discipline” through Eleven Steps.

1. I learn to set aside my desire to have my own way; to desire what God wants for me. What my new Employer wants for me is always exactly what I need. I am more “God-conscious”.
2. I learn to *believe* in God; to have *faith* in God’s care; to *trust* in God’s will for me.
3. My measure of success for Step Eleven is being willing to seek God’s will ... not “know” it.
4. I learn to be content when God says “no” ... or “wait”. I learn to grow in the “pause”.
5. I learn that inspiration is real. Waiting for inspiration is not wasted time, but God’s time.

Next Time: Step Twelve, “Let my new Employer use my spiritual awakening to *try* to help other alcoholics and to be a good example to all other people.”