

BONUS: Step 6 – The Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions

Step 6

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The Twelve Steps and The Twelve Traditions

The 12 and (not by) 12, has many helpful chapters. It is a book of commentary on Bill's 15 year experience with the program. This of course is different than the instructional manual (The Big Book), but none the less, Bill shares some great insight into these Steps. They can be very helpful. The following are some questions that are placed here to provoke thought and hopefully understanding. This is optional, but most of us believe helpful.

1. What is implied in the phrase “separates the men from the boys”?
2. Explain the requirements for one to be considered a “man” versus a “boy”?
3. What feelings and thoughts come up when you read phrases like, “enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults – without any reservations whatever – “?
4. What does the phrase, “sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator” mean to you?
5. Can God remove defects of character? What's your personal proof?
6. Have you become “entirely willing to let God remove the mania for alcohol” from your life?
7. Have you been granted a perfect relief from alcoholism?
8. What is the riddle of our existence? Where perhaps is the full answer?

9. What is our partial answer? What are the two parts to the answer?
10. What did God give us to help us stay alive? What does this say about the nature of man? What does this say about the nature of God?
11. Has God ever removed man's natural drives, at least that we know of?
12. What does the phrase "intended purpose" mean to you? Who's intended purpose?
13. What is the point at which we depart from the degree of perfection That God wishes for us on earth? (There are 5 in this sentence...Can you find them?)
14. When we depart from this perfection, what do we call that in AA? (Two names listed)
15. Will God forgive us for that? What does it imply about the nature of man if we need to ask for forgiveness? What does it imply about the nature of God? Are we obliged to ask God for forgiveness? Why or why not?
16. What are the two conditions to *be rendered white as snow and to be kept that way*?
17. What are the requirements for us to do? How do we grow in the building of character?
18. What is Step Six "really saying"?
19. The phrase "entirely ready" underlines what fact? What does it mean to "know" something? What does it mean to "learn" something? What actions can we take to "know and learn" something?
20. What is the best we can do? What does this mean?
21. What will always be found in humanity? What does this say about the nature of man? What does this say about the nature of God?
22. What are some of the defects you suffer from that may not be at "rock-bottom levels"?
23. Why do you think we have escaped these extremes?
24. Is it true that you love your defects of character?

25. Do any of these examples in the next few paragraphs resonate with you? If so, which ones and why? Take a moment right now and ask that God would grant you the willingness to let Him remove these defects from you. Be silent and think about this request.
26. Why will we not “let God remove this defect of character”?
27. Instead of spiritual and moral perfection, what do most of us strive for? Is this God’s Will for us?
28. What does Bill mean by the phrases, “self-determined objective” and “the perfect objective which is of God”?
29. What is the “entire implication of Step Six”? Is it hard?
30. Which Step can be practiced with absolute perfection?
31. What do the remaining Steps state? What do they help us see?
32. Is Step Six impossible, even though it calls us to perfection (God’s objectives for our life)?
33. What does Step Six ask of us?
34. What does the phrase “real advantage” mean to you?
35. What are the three actions we must take to gain this “real advantage”?
36. What do we do with the defects we are unwilling to give up?
37. What was suggested we aim toward?
38. Is it possible that some delay toward giving these defects up is pardonable? What is the danger in that?
39. What does “bluffing oneself” mean?
40. What must we do, “At the very least”?
41. What closes out the “grace of God”?
42. What is dangerous? What might be fatal?
43. What does “limited objectives” mean?
44. What does “move” toward God’s will mean?

45. So it's the point of conflict between "limited objectives" or "self-determined objectives" and what God's plans are for us, that we take action in Step Six.

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