
Carrying The Message

STEP 6 - “We are entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the STEP that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults - without any reservations whatever - has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator. (*Twelve and Twelve, page 63*)

“Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life - the one that did not work - for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever.” (Bill W.)

The moment we say, “no, never?” our minds close against the grace of God. Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives and, and move toward God’s will for us. (*Twelve and Twelve, page 69*)

Trustee Reflections

Initially, I took steps 5, 6 and 7 altogether. And it was a good thing because without the hope of steps 6 and 7, I couldn’t have stayed stuck without drinking. Steps 6 and 7 convinced me that there was a chance and an incredible willingness to let God change me from the person I had become as an active drunk. The hope of that change, the reassurance of forgiveness, and the coming opportunity to try to make right the wrongs was all I needed to move on and stay sober.

-Cindy S.

June 2020
RAI Board of Trustees

It was important for myself to admit that I was powerless over King Alcohol and that I now have a higher power that I can turn to.

This step is a culmination of all the work I had done before and asks me to admit that I am powerless over all of my negative behavior- not just my drinking – and consider turning these behaviors over to my higher power. This step does not ask me to turn over my defects yet- it just asks that I become willing to do so. This step can be difficult to take because it deals with attitude and willingness to change rather than change itself. **-Zack L.**

I remember when I told my sponsor how frustrated I was that I couldn’t get rid of these character defects and how hard I prayed to God to help me. He asked me what I was praying for. I told him every morning I pray, “God please help me become a more honest person by taking away my propensity for lying”. My sponsor then told me something that was to change my perception of Step 6 and that would eventually change my life. He said “Craig why don’t you show God how ready you are to have this defect removed by praying every morning for the courage to tell the truth in all your affairs”. “If you find the courage and continue to tell the truth, God will see that you are ready to have your defect taken away”. What a revelation to me. From that day forward I began a new relationship with God in respect to my character defects and began to pray for the courage to change my character in all aspects. By praying for courage and taking action to do the right thing, God in His infinite wisdom is helping me to slowly become the person I am meant to be. **-Craig S.**

So Step 6- “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character”- is A.A. 's way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words “entirely ready” underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn. (*Twelve and Twelve, page 65*)

If you have any comments or would like to provide your reflections on Step 6,

please send to Central Office at

office1@rochester-ny-aa.org