

Wisdom - Lining Up My Actions With God's Word

Step Ten - We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.

We live in a world that says, "If it feels good do it." For many of us in our addiction, we ran after many destructive things in order to try to feel good. As we come to new life in recovery, God invites us to assess the quality of our life based on principles that He knows have the power to give us true meaning and satisfaction. Many times, the practices God describes do not feed this "feel good fast" addictive voice in us. We struggle to do what's right rather than what's convenient. One of the purposes of an ongoing Step 10 inventory is to help us recognize our ongoing temptation to a "softer, easier way."

For the Word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are. Nothing in all creation can hide from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done. Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires. These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death. (From Hebrews 4 and James 1)

We came to God and asked Him to give us new life through Jesus Christ. What does that mean? What is this new life? God, through Jesus, forgives us for our self-centered addictive lifestyles that have hurt so many and kept us from being a blessing. Just as important, however, is the new way of living under God's direction and authority that is demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus was fiercely devoted to doing the will of God as it was described in Scripture and applied personally through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said: I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. (John 5)

Step 10 is about bringing our lives to the mirror of God's Word and seeing how we are actually practicing a new way of living. Too many of us piece together a new way of life from the practices of others and things that seem to "work for us." God's word is clear that this is not sufficient and the only safe way of living is to learn and follow God's blueprint for living. Some helpful summaries of these practices are found in the commandments.

Ten Safeguards For Healthy Living (Otherwise known as The Ten Commandments)

1. **Worship no other god than me.**
2. **Do not make yourselves any idols: You must never bow or worship any objects or images.**
3. **Do not use the name of God irreverently, nor use it to swear to a falsehood.**
4. **Remember to observe the Sabbath as a holy day.**
5. **Honour your father and mother that you may have a long good life.**
6. **Do not murder.**
7. **Do not commit adultery.**
8. **Do not steal.**
9. **Do not lie.**
10. **Do not be envious of your neighbor's house, or want to sleep with his wife, or own anything else he has.**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. All the other commandments stem from these two and are fulfilled if you obey them.

Step 10 is about inviting God to shine his light into our souls to help us sort our motives and actions. When our actions or attitudes are different from God's instructions, one thing is clear: we are wrong and we need to re-align our ways with what God is saying and the sooner the better.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. In what areas of life do I need to find the addictive voice in me that entices me to the "If it feels good, do it" way of life?
2. What do I do, on a regular basis, to understand and live the will of God described in the Bible?
3. What do each of the Ten Commandments mean in day-to-day living in 2002?