

"We Make The Path By Walking"

Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps"

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening. You thrill me, LORD, with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done. (Psalm 92)

The delightful discovery pointed to by Step 12 is that all the sacrifices of the first eleven steps have purchased a gift beyond measure - our spiritual awakening to the God of our understanding. We have come to a new and intimate understanding of a loving God who promises to guide and empower us to live in a new and satisfying way. This spiritual awakening is not a passive, static, or historical event. Rather, it is an ongoing, unfolding experience as we experience God's kindness in the new beginning of each morning and reflect at the end of the day on God's faithful presence and help throughout the day.

"we tried to carry this message to others"

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the LORD has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to announce that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD'S favor has come ... To all who mourn.... He will give beauty for ashes, joy instead of mourning, and praise instead of despair. (Isaiah 61)

A common recovery saying is that "you must give it away in order to keep it". How are we to carry the message? Our new life-style, free of the destructive dependencies of the past, is a living witness to recovery. Sharing our life stories and recovery experiences in support group meetings and in personal conversations is a powerful spoken witness. And intervening lovingly, but firmly, on behalf of those trapped in denial about their own dependencies is

another way we faithfully carry out Jesus' instruction to tell others what great things God has done for us.

"practice these principles in all our affairs"

1 Corinthians 9:22-27

All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9)

As we get further along in our recovery, the memory of how bad our life really was may begin to fade. Do we vividly remember what we once were? Can we recall the dark emotions that filled our soul? As we share our message, let us never forget the following truths. We too, were slaves, just as others are today. Our heart was filled with the confusion and painful emotions that others still feel. We were saved, not because we were good enough, because of the love and kindness of God. We must also remember that we are able to stay free because God is with us, upholding us every step of the way. The need for spiritual self-discipline never ceases. This is why Step 12 urges us to "practice these principles in all our affairs." Doing this will minimize our slips and hold us close to the presence of God, covered with the peace and serenity of His grace.

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. Have I experienced a spiritual awakening?
2. In what ways do I carry this message to others?
3. What are the principles I try to practice in my daily life?
4. How am I living the message of new life with vigilance?

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