

After reading the previous chapter, we're faced with one hell of a dilemma. Bill has convinced us that without the help of a Power greater than ourselves, we were not going to recover. And, while we agreed that it might be true, many of us felt it wouldn't be possible for us to access that Power based on our old ideas, emotions and attitudes concerning religion and God.

Bill knew of the conflict and confusion many of us faced, because he felt the same way. And, he knew that for us to make any decision about "this spiritual thing", we were going to need some new information about God. He knew that based on old ideas we weren't likely to move ahead. So, he sat down and wrote a chapter for those of us who shared his experiences, and he called it We Agnostics. And he wrote it in such a way that it allowed us to have a new understanding of God, so that we'd be able to make the decision we're going to have to make in the next chapter.

Perhaps the real genius of We Agnostics lies in the fact that it does not try to prove to anyone that there is a God. What this chapter does is give people who are having trouble with God just enough new information so as to open up their mind to the possibility --- to think about --- to ponder --- and then God will prove to them that there is a God!

Bill opens this chapter with a test that, if answered honestly, will tell us if we really need what this Program has to offer. Once we determine if we are alcoholics of the "hopeless variety" we are informed that *only* a Power greater than ourselves -- a Higher Power, as we understand Him --- will solve *all* our problems.

Once that Promise is stated, Bill then has us confront the attitudes which hinder our spiritual progress, then he gives us reasons to believe and finally provides directions for "making an approach" to the Higher Power of our own conception.

We are presented with the "bedevilmments" of our lives (52:2) --- the symptoms of our spiritual malady --- as a way of seeing that "our ideas did not work". And, perhaps, this "God idea" just might! (52:3)

Perhaps the most comforting advice Bill gives is that we do not have to start with Faith. We're informed that we can "commence at a simpler level", which is Belief. (47:3)

And, in We Agnostics, we begin that voyage from Belief, over the "Bridge of Reason" to the "desired shore of faith." (53:3)

We're assured that by sweeping away prejudice and old fixed ideas, thinking honestly and searching diligently within ourselves, the consciousness of our beliefs will come to us. (55:4)

And, "when we drew near to Him He disclosed Himself to us." (57:3)