

BELIEF vs. FAITH

Step two says "We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." It does not say *we came to know*...nor does it say *we came to have faith*....it says *we came to believe*.

"...upon this simple cornerstone... (of **belief**) ...a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built." (p47:2)

"That was great news to us, for we had assumed we could not make use of spiritual principles unless we accepted many things on **faith** which seemed difficult to **believe**. When people presented us with spiritual approaches, how frequently did we all say, "I wish I had what that man has. I'm sure it would work **if I could only believe as he believes**. But I cannot accept as surely true the many articles of faith which are so plain to him." So it was comforting to learn that **we could commence at a simpler level**." (p.47:3)

And that "simpler level" is **BELIEF**.

Faith = Knowledge, surety and "after the fact" information (prior experience).

"I think the greatest difficulty we have in believing is that we want something with more certainty to start with; we want more assurance. We expect faith before we start, but **believing comes first**. **It is not faith at the beginning; it's speculation or suspicion, and that's really all you can expect right then, because believing is the starting point.**" – from *The Steps We Took* by Joe McQuaney (of Joe & Charlie) p.30.

And based on that **BELIEF** (Step 2).....

We make a **DECISION** (Step 3).....

To take **ACTION** (Steps 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11)....

That produces **RESULTS** (first part of Step 12).....

"And now we have **FAITH**. We now have knowledge, surety and prior experience. We no longer believe --- **WE KNOW**. We no longer believe that God could restore us to sanity, we know he will, because he has done so!" (Charlie Parmley, Laughlin, Nevada, August 1998).

BELIEF = HOPE

FAITH = CONFIDENCE