

CONSIDER THIS.....

Freely adopted by Howard E.

Alcoholics Anonymous is far more than a "12 Step" program. It is a spiritual program comprised by spiritual principles grouped in "12's". First, we are given the *Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous* which provide the suffering alcoholic with clear-cut directions for recovery from the fatal malady of alcoholism. We are then given the *Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous* which establish the boundaries for the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous; the way it lives and grows. We are then presented with the *Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous*, the means by which A.A. serves suffering alcoholics around the world. These make up the *Three Legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity and Service*. So in reality, A.A. is a "36 Step" Program.

But, if A.A. is made up in sets of "Twelve", why only Eleven Chapters? The rest of our Basic Text is comprised of the stories of hopeless alcoholics who adopted this Program as a way of life and recovered to live a full and useful life. Consider this: Perhaps "Chapter Twelve" in the Recovery section of your Big Book will be your story. So, how then, will it read? Because it is now up to you to write that story.

Will you be one of those willing to be humble enough to become a student and practitioner of this Big Book, thereby living a life of purpose? If so, you will make the difference in the lives of so very many people as you travel through life, just as Bill W. and Dr. Bob did.

Or, will you be one of those betting their very lives on *Fellowship* alone? Those who just go to meetings, hoping against hope that you will be the exception to the rule. That you *will not* be one of the many – the unfortunate statistical majority - who fail to remain sober? Those who return to the miserable life of just living for the next drink, maybe never to return to A.A. for another chance.

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Will you be one of those who believes they are above all this "Fellowship", "Program", "Steps" and "God stuff"? If you are one of those, you very likely will never see this page. But, if you are reading this, then perhaps you realize that the study you have now embarked upon may produce for you that which it did for the authors of this Book. So why not give it a try? Yes, it will mean some inconvenience and interruptions in your daily life. But, if you realize that you drank to change the way you thought and the way you felt - and accept *that* option is no longer available to you - isn't it worth the time and effort to see if this Program might not do all those things – and more – for you? To be open to the possibility that it might be the Solution to *all* your problems?

One thing we know is that when we arrive at A.A., we *will* serve a purpose. What purpose will *your* presence demonstrate? Will yours be one of success - or of failure?

We paid a hell of a price to get here. Shouldn't we be willing to make a reasonable investment to stay here? It's far less painful! Rarely have we seen a person fail to find Spiritual, Mental and Physical Harmony as well as Emotional Sobriety who has carefully followed the directions in the Big Book. Try it. You just might like the results.

So remember – *please*:
WE RECOVER BY THE STEPS WE TAKE, NOT THE MEETINGS
WE MAKE!!!

IT IS MUCH EASIER TO STAY SOBER THAN IT IS TO GET
SOBER!!!