

Step Six

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Once alcohol and drugs were out of my picture there was still one major problem. I was left with me. The trouble with that is I was the one who drove me to drink and drug in the first place. How does one deal with that?

The steps are the answer and Step Six is the point of departure to a brand new life. My character defects caused all of my problems. They are the reason I was almost never able to form good healthy, harmonious relations except on the most superficial level. I did want to feel superior to most and I certainly felt inferior to many. I had (have?) anger and control issues. I was so lazy I made a bloodhound look ambitious. This unwillingness to work toward difficult goals led to envy, and a feeling of unworthiness for things I had made me jealous of others I always thought were encroaching on my territories.

My lack of courage in many situations made me resentful at myself and my lust drove me down many a wrong road. My desire to impress other people caused me to look stupid quite often. When the drugs and alcohol were gone this is what was left. How miserable would it be to live with that guy for the rest of my life?

A thorough inventory and frank discussion with a wiser one allowed me to see clearly this was the situation. Others have said it and so will I. I was truly grateful God had been able to remove the drink and dope when I couldn't, why wouldn't I think he could remove these defects from me? I was truly sick and tired of myself and really wanted something different. Others had said God had removed many shortcomings from them. I really did not know what life should look like and it seemed the more I made the determinations I got the same old results.

The word willingness reared its ugly head again. Could I be willing to die to myself so that I could become the person God wanted me to be? Could I trust that God would guide me down the right paths? Could I be willing to lean not on my own understanding but in all my ways acknowledge him? Could this worldly person believe that being the person God wanted me to be would be better than being the person I thought I should be?

Pain is the great motivator. When the emotional pain stemming from the land between my ears became too much, which was inevitable, there really was only one way to go. I am as powerless over my defects as I am over alcohol. I will insanely indulge them just as I would alcohol but for the grace of God. Didn't the misery of an alcoholic mind develop from the misery of my mind prior to alcohol? Why wouldn't I be willing to have God remove my defects?

This is what Step Six is about. Not just believing God can do many things but trusting that if I try to live His way He will provide everything I need and give me the courage and serenity to squarely face any and all difficulties. He will free me from the bondage of self and only then can I better do His will. Trying to live His way, and shooting for the goals he sets, provides me much more joy today than all the fun I thought I had before I got here. I can live at peace with others and get more out of myself to give to others than I ever thought possible.

So how do I do my part on a daily basis to show God I am serious about ridding myself of my defects? Awareness is most important. That is what a thorough inventory will create. If you don't know what your defects are you can't see them playing out in your life. You will continue to blame others for everything.

Step Ten's ongoing inventory tells us to be looking for these shortcomings. When they pop up we ask God to remove them. That is the ongoing Step Seven. We rectify old mistakes and make prompt amends for new ones. We try to live the Eleventh Step prayer. We do the service work Step Twelve calls for and we try to practice all these principles in all our affairs. If we are serious about Step Six, we will do all these things because we realize we need God working in our life and this is the best way to get ourselves out of the way..

When we reach the end there is a new beginning. Once the alcohol and drugs are out of our lives we can start to think clearly again. We can see vividly that we are our problem. God is our true solution. Step Six is the new beginning to deal with our real problem.