

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

**Tradition 12.** Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

**Promise 12.** We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

**Reward 12.** The freedom of a happy life, instead of the bondage of a sexaholic obsession.

**Readings:**

<b>White Book:</b>	143-155
<b>AA Big Book:</b>	89-103
<b>12 and 12:</b>	106-125
<b>Step into Action:</b>	171-188

**Twelfth Step Prayer**

*Dear God,*

*My spiritual awakening continues to unfold.*

*The help I have received I shall pass on & give to others, both in & out of the Fellowship.*

*For this opportunity I am grateful.*

*I pray most humbly to continue walking day by day on the road of spiritual progress.*

*I pray for the inner strength & wisdom to practice the principles of this way of life in all I do & say.*

*I need You, my friends, & the program every hour of every day.*

*This is a better way to live.*

**Editorial: On the 12th Step**

**AA Grapevine**

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Now comes the last Step in the Program of Recovery. We will consider the two aspects of this Step: (1) we tried to carry this message to (addicts) and (2) to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Our own peculiar personal histories as (addicts) make us singularly fitted to perform the first part of this Step. Indeed, it is the fact that we are (addicts) in the process of recovery that makes us effective at all. Where medicine and the ministry have failed, A.A. often has been successful because the prospect somehow felt a "bond of understanding".

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

In carrying this message to other (addicts) we must remember that we are carriers of information, not reformers. If the prospect indicates that he has no desire to stop drinking, we should let him alone. We cannot force a person to stop drinking. We shouldn't try.

However, if the prospect convinces us that he has a real desire to get well, we should be prepared to go to any lengths to help him. Sometimes the indirect approach is better. Tell the prospect your own story See to it that he has a chance to read the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Take him to a meeting and see that he has an opportunity to talk with other members.

In talking A.A. with the new man, use common sense. If you do, he has a much better chance of getting well. If he is in a hospital, for example, and very jittery - be kind and sympathetic but use discretion about how long you stay. Remember that A.As do not moralize or preach. We simply give information about ourselves.

Above all, don't get discouraged. There's an old saying around A.A. that your prospect never gets well when you want him to. This saying isn't always true but there's a lot in it. You might remember that 12th Step work always helps you regardless of the success or failure of your prospect.

Think of your own experience. Did you get well because of another person? Of course not. You got well because of A.A.; its 12 Steps; its Program of Recovery. Your sponsor merely brought the message to you.

The second part of this Step is by far the most important part of the program. How many of us practice these principles in all our affairs? You guessed it - too few of us. Fact is, many entirely overlook the second part of this Step. Recently, a member looked at us queerly when we mentioned part two of the 12th Step. He had never thought of it.

To practice A.A. principles in all our affairs requires growth and full-scale adoption of every phase of the program. Those who accomplish it are A.A.'s happiest and most serene members. They are finding peace of mind. They have humility without humbleness. They have true tolerance and gratitude.

It isn't possible to tell you how to practice A.A.'s principles in your life but we know the payoff is tremendous!

Finally, a word about our conception of 12th Step work. Although it is generally associated with active help for the sick alcoholic, it doesn't have to be. We believe 12th Step work is any work, direct or indirect, that helps other (addicts) to recover. The volunteer workers; the group secretaries; the members who perform the service of providing refreshments at meetings; the man who takes time out from his business to mail 100 postcards for the group - all are doing 12th Step work just as surely as if they were visiting drunks in hospitals, jails, sanatoriums, or homes.