

Geez, seems easy enough, right?

Every time I read and work this step it amuses me how simple this step reads. In reality this is a lifelong journey, done one day at a time by practicing this and all the steps.

When I first did Step 6 it really was a gloss over. I had just felt serenity for a few moments after doing my fifth, which felt wonderful and I wanted more! So, doing the 6th with my sponsor was “yes, I’m ready!” and I moved on without any pushback of ‘being the hole in the donut’. As I continued to stay sober, continued to grow, and continued to try and live life on life’s terms; new resentments and anger cropped up. Defects that previously didn’t seem to be a concern now evolved into more issues and new defects gradually popped up. You see, I didn’t fully grasp this step until a few inventories later. Our AA messages are simple, but I have found that certain messages only speak clearly to us when God needs us to hear it or shall I say, we are ready to hear it.

As I was going over my latest inventory with my sponsor, he so brazenly pointed out, “why do these things look familiar?!”. He was right, I had some stinky defects that had been festering because I was not ready to give them up. I had believed they were still working and not causing any issues. Yet, there they were staring up at me on the paper funk up the room and my serenity. It was in that moment I heard God’s message that it was time to take a deeper dive into this step. It was time to get a better understanding of what it means to be ready to have God remove these defects of character and how to get to that readiness.

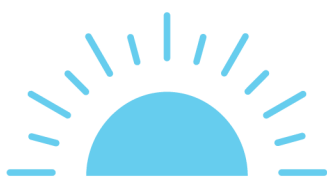
Up until this point I had a negative opinion of the book ‘Drop the Rock’. My opinion was not because I read it and was a book critic, but the Big Book along with the 12&12 seemed enough. What my sponsor suggested is that I needed a different perspective a different way of understanding this step. So I dove into the book to get a different message of how to truly find the willingness to be ready. That readiness that just so happens to be the key component of this step is also the action that helps us to continue to align our will and life with our God, as we made that decision back in step 3. I was able to see how my defects were well past their expiration date, which were affecting the relationships in my life, being able to be of service to others and aligning my will with God’s will.

I don’t work this program perfectly—as we alcoholics like to say, “progress, not perfection.” By continuing to attend meetings, work the steps, and do my best to be of service to God and others, I’m able to maintain accountability for my defects, continue to grow, and remain teachable.

Brett M

If it brings
you joy
- **KEEP
IT.**





Volume 137

June

2025

Save the Dates !



June 21st

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

Attention GSRs:

Summer Assembly

Post-GSC Panel 75

Delegate Report

* location & time TBD

June 18th

District 43 Monthly

Business meeting.

7-8 p.m.

(Third Wednesday of
each month)

ZOOM MEETING ID:

96566590236

P.W: 932879

All are welcome to attend!

Vancouver 2025

Language of the Heart

International

Convention:

Alcoholics Anonymous

July 3-6 2025

For further

information, please

go to :

025icsa@aa.org.

Vancouver | British

Columbia, Canada

"It is when we try to make our will conform with God's that we begin to use it rightly. To all of us, this was the most wonderful revelation. Our whole trouble had been the misuse of power. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us. To make this increasingly possible is the purpose of A.A's Twelve Steps."

W, Bill. As Bill Sees It. New York: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, 1967, p. 42

Q & "AA"

- 1- What is each groups primary purpose?
- 2- What are the 3 pillars of Alcoholics Anonymous?
- 3- What is the 4th principle of AA?
- 4- What page in the Big Book does it talk about bedevilments?
- 5- How many bedevilments are there in the Big Book?

(Answers will be on next months issue.)

"My creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen." p.76 of Alcoholics Anonymous



Celebrating
90 YEARS

OF



Friday November 14th
through -Sunday Nov.
16th

2025 Illinois State

Conference

For further information,

Please see the

District 43 Flyer

located on the

District 43 Website.

or, go to:

2025ilstcomf@gmail.com

aa-nia-il-district40.org

aa-nia.org

I still remember feeling nervous as I was driving to meet my sponsor to do my fifth step. I came to a stop light and noticed a bumper sticker on the car in front of me that said, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7. I am not one that usually finds solace in a Bible verse; however, through this program, I've learned to embrace the power of these moments when my higher power is trying to communicate with me (even if it's through a bumper sticker!)

After I completed my fifth step, the sun wasn't shining brighter. The clouds didn't part for me as I walked back to my car. But I did notice that I felt just a little bit lighter. I hadn't realized the weight of my past. That I had carried it with me all these years as if it defined me.

With each step I complete, I have the privilege of inching closer to the person I'm meant to be, and away from that young person consumed by alcohol who looked like me, but didn't act or feel like me on the inside. Today, I can see that everything I discussed in my fifth step, whether I'm proud of it or not, has brought me to exactly where I am today, which is where I'm meant to be: sober and taking it one day at a time.

Maura B.



A.A. members in District 43 of Northern Illinois publish this newsletter. Admissions are to keep members informed of local events, service activities and to share experiences and strength in recovery from alcoholism, and its impact on our families. Ideas are those of the authors and not necessarily those of A.A. PLEASE SEND US any articles, ideas, or questions to groupvineeditor@gmail.com. Comments are most welcomed and encouraged!

