

CIRCLE AND TRIANGLE / PREFACE AND FORWARDS

As I look at the circle and triangle I will consider each part. In the unity side the fellowship. **If you are a NEWCOMER, you can write "N/A" if it doesn't apply:**

1. **UNITY SIDE** (Fellowship/The Body) - How am I doing with my meetings?

- a. Do I go to enough meetings? _____
- b. Do I have a home group? _____
- c. Do I have a commitment at a meeting? _____
- d. Do I go to too many meetings? _____
- e. Do I get there early? _____
- f. Do I welcome new people before or after the meeting? _____
- g. Do I reach out? _____
- h. Do I help with set up or set down? _____

2. **RECOVERY SIDE** (12-Steps/The Mind) - How am doing in the 12 steps?

- a. Am I actively going through the 12 steps? _____
- b. Am I doing with my step 10? _____
- c. Am I doing with my daily practice of 11? _____
- d. Have I finished all the amends on my 8-step list? _____

3. **SERVICE SIDE** (Spiritual/ Am I working with others and carrying the message?)

- a. Am I working with others taking them through the Big Book as I was taken through?

- b. Have I looked to see if the way I take people through the work is effective and are they staying in the program and working with others?

- c. Am I giving them enough time? Am I explaining the process well?

- d. Do I have a commitment at a hospital or institution?

4. The promise is that if action is taken in all three areas I can be whole. What does that mean to me?

5. The first promise is how hundreds have "recovered". Am I "recovered" or am I "recovering"?

6. In the forward to the first addition it says that we have "recovered" from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. Is that true for me? _____

7. It talks about many do not comprehend that the alcoholic and addict are very sick people. Do I?

8. In the meeting between Dr. Bob and Bill W. in the Forward to the 2nd Edition, what stood out to you? (page xv-xvii):

The First Step

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous never tells us directly how to work the first two steps. In the portion of ‘How It Works’ read at many meetings, we hear “Our description of the Alcoholic, the chapter to the Agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three pertinent ideas, that we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives, that probably no human power could have relieved us of our alcoholism and that God could and would if He were sought”. (pages 58-60).

What is not read is the sentence which follows, “Being convinced, we were at Step 3.” Convinced of what? The answer is right there: “Convinced of these three pertinent ideas.” And how do we get convinced? We read the description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the Agnostic, and the personal experiences before and after they are specifically designed to “make clear these three pertinent ideas.” In the original manuscript, it reads that if we were not convinced, “we ought to reread the book to this point or else throw it away.’

We compare our experiences; the way we thought felt, and drank (or used) with the experiences of the people described in the book, to see how they match up, this is how we take steps one and two. Relating to their experiences may create a problem for the modern reader. The English of today is significantly different from that of 1939 when this book was first published. If you have ever tried to read Shakespeare, you are perhaps aware of the effect time has upon language. Going through the Big Book in the way described here should help you overcome this language problem, and give you an understanding of the Big Book which is *reflected in your own experience*. You may begin to see the Big Book in a new light, and perhaps it will have real meaning in your own life today.

Much of this workbook consists of statements from the Big Book which have been turned into questions. We found it helpful to view the book in this light rather than as a book of answers; the answers you will find only in your own experience, and within you own heart. For the sake of clarity, some questions are paraphrased rather than directly quoted. If there is something you relate to, describe it, and ask yourself “what was my experience with this?” “Did this happen to me? Did I feel like this?” “Think like this?” or “Drink/use like this?” This is not a “homework assignment” were we try to get through it as quickly as we can with a minimum effort. If you are really and alcoholic, and/or drug addict, having an understanding of these steps means the difference between life and death. This workbook is setup to be used by alcoholics and drug addicts. However, some of us thought we were only alcoholics or only addicts, and later discovered we were both. We ask you only to try to keep an open mind.

DOCTOR’S OPINION

Step 1 – Physical craving

Page xxv - 23

1. Why am I interested in the plan of recovery described in this book? Pg. xxv – P1-L2

2. Do I believe convincing testimony must surely come from a doctor who had experience with the sufferings of alcoholics and have witnessed their return to health? Would this be helpful to me? Pg. xxv P1 – L4

3. Am I the type regarded as hopeless? Wants to quit but can't? pg. xxv P3 – L3

4. Am I the type with whom every method I tried had failed completely? What have I tried? Pg. xxv P5- L2

a. Am I willing to believe this book has a remedy for me? Pg. xxv1 P1 L3

b. Am I willing to rely absolutely on anything they say about themselves in this book? Pg. xxvi P1-L4

“Allergy” Definition: a condition of unusual sensitivity to a substance, which in like amounts does not affect others and is characterized by systematic disorders.

Note: It's like having an allergic physical reaction to strawberries. I can't eat them without breaking out in a physical itch, nothing to do with what I'm thinking. As with alcohol, when I drink I break out in an itch to have another drink, then another, then another. You will see your experience with the physical powerlessness not in the amount you drank, but in your lack of control.

5. Do I believe that my body is quite as abnormal as my mind after the first drink or drug? Why? Pg. xxvi P2 – L2

a. Did any explanation I've heard ever satisfy me as to why I could not control my drinking and/or using? What did I hear? What have I told myself? Pg. xvi P2 – L7

b. Do I believe these things were true to some extent, in fact, to a considerable extent with me?
Pg. xxv1 P2 – L10

c. Do I believe any picture of me which leaves out this physical factor feels incomplete? Explain
what the physical factor looks like when you drink or use? Pg. xxvi P2 – L12

d. Does the doctor's theory that I have an allergy to alcohol interest me? Does the explanation
about the allergy make good sense? Pg. xxvi P3 – L4

e. Does the allergy explain why you lost control and couldn't stop? Pg. xxvi P3 –L5

6. Do I believe I need to find a Power which can pull me back from the gates of death and that must be a
power greater than my own? Explain why? Pg. xxvii P6 – L9

7. Do I believe that the re-action of alcohol on me is like an allergy and there is a craving for more that
occurs after the first drink or drug? Explain what that looks like with you? Pg. xxviii P1 –L1

a. Can I safely use alcohol (and/or drugs) in any form at all? Pg. xxviii P1 - L5

b. Did I form the habit? Pg. xxviii P 1 – L6

c. Could I break It? Pg. xxviii P1 – L7

d. Did I lose my self confidence that anything human could keep me sober? Pg. xxviii P1 – L7

8. Do I believe frothy emotional appeal (like someone begging me to stop) never worked so the message that I better get here in this program to interest and hold me, must have depth and weight more than emotional or intellectual? Pg. xxviii P2 – L1

9. Did I drink because I liked the effect of alcohol? What was that effect like for me? Pg. xxviii P4 – L1

a. Was the effect so great that after a time, even though you knew it was bad for you, you could not tell the true from the false? (“Like investing in cocaine to sell it or going to the bar for a couple of beers”) Pg. xxviii P4 – L2

b. Did my alcoholic life seem the only normal one? How? Pg. xxviii P4 – L4

10. Am I restless (uneasy) irritable (easily annoyed) and discontented (never satisfied) until I experience a sense of ease and comfort when I pick up a drug or a drink? Pg. xxvii P2 – L1

a. When I start to drink to change the way I feel, am I able to stop once I feel the way I want to feel?

11. Do I believe that in recovery I must experience the sense of ease and comfort that I got by drinking or using? Pg. xxix

12. Do I pass through the well-known stages of a spree, emerging remorseful, with the firm resolution to never drink or use again? What happens when I make resolutions to not drink or use? (Can I pull it off?) Pg. xxix P(top) – L5

a. Is this repeated over and over? Pg. xxix P(top) – L7

b. Or do I have other solutions? What? Pg. xxix P(top)

c. Can I stay stopped on my own? Pg. xxix P2 – L3

d. Do I need help? Pg. xxix P2 – L3

13. Do I believe that something more than human power is needed to produce the essential psychic change and that is my only answer? Pg. xxix P3 – L5

14. When I start drinking, can I mentally control when I'm going to stop drinking? Pg. xxix P4 – L6

15. Has this craving at any time become more important than all other interests? (Job, family, etc.) Pg. xxix P(top) L2

16. Was I always going on the wagon (swearing off) for keeps? Pg. xxx P2 – L4

a. Was I over-remorseful making many resolutions to quit? Pg. xxx P2 – L5

17. Was I unwilling to admit that I cannot take a drink or drug? Why? Pg. xxx P3 – L1

a. Did I plan various ways of drinking in an effort to control my drinking? Give an example. Pg. P3 – L2

b. Do I believe that after being entirely free from alcohol for a period of time that I could take a drink without danger? Why? Pg. xxx P3 – L4

18. Have I identified my allergy to alcohol as a craving for more once I start drinking? Pg. xxx P5 – L1

a. Can I start drinking (using) without developing the phenomenon of craving? What happens when I do? Pg. xxx P5 – L2

b. Do I believe this allergy differentiates me and sets me apart from other people? I'm not like other people when it comes to alcohol and/or drugs? Pg. xxx P5-L4

c. Do I believe the only relief to this physical allergy is entire abstinence? Pg. xxx P5 – L7

d. Can I do that on my own, just not drink/use? Pg. xxx P5- L8

19. Do I feel doomed (when it comes to alcohol and/or drugs)? Pg. xxx P6-L4

20. Was I living to drink (or use)? What did my day look like? Pg. xxxi P2 – L6

CONSIDERATIONS:

If I have a sobriety date that is 10 days or more and I can't produce a sense of ease and comfort powerful enough to keep me from taking the first drink, how is it that I continue to have this sobriety date no matter how I feel?

BILL'S STORY
Step 1
Pg. 1 - top of page 9

1st Half of Bill's Story

1. Did you drink and use when you were lonely? Did you drink and use when you were "not" lonely?
Page 1 P1

2. Were there things that happened early in your drinking/using career (ominous warnings) which you failed to heed? List 3: Pg. 1 P3

3. Did you develop theories about how you would be successful in life, while loaded? Pg.2 P2

4. Did your friends sometimes think you were crazy? Did you? Pg. 3 Top P

5. Did drinking and/or using become more important/serious over time? Pg. 3 P1 - 2

- a. Did you fight with your spouse and friends? Pg.3 P2

- b. Did you become a loner? Pg. 3 P2

- c. Did you begin to drink and/or use in the morning? Pg. 3 P3

6. Did you start to drink and/or drug to escape from problems, sometimes brought on by the drinking and/or drugging? Pg. 4 P1

7. Did you become an unwelcome hanger on at your job, at the bar, at the crack house? Pg. 5 top P

8. Did alcohol/drugs, at some point, cease to be a luxury and become a necessity? Explain. Pg. 5 P1 – L1

9. Did I still think I could control the consequences of drinking and drugging? How? Pg. 5 P1 – L9

10. Did life gradually get worse? How? Pg. 5 P2 – L1

11. Did you feel a sense of impending calamity? Like something bad was always about to happen? Pg. 6 P1

a. Did you now have to drink or get high to be able to function at all? Pg. 6 P1

12. Did you think of suicide? Pg. 6 P2

a. Did you try mixing alcohol/drugs with other substances so you could function (i.e. Alcohol and meth)? What did you try? Pg. 6, P2

13. Can self-knowledge fix me? Why or why not? Pg. 7 P2 – L9

14. Was I as hopeless as Bill, wanted to stop drinking but couldn't? pg. 8 P1 – L5

15. Did you feel loneliness, despair and self-pity? Pg. 8 P2

a. Did you ever feel alcohol / drugs were your master? Pg. 8 P2

b. Did this (that you had no power) scare you? Were you afraid? Pg. 8 P2

c. Did this fear keep you sober? Or did you drink again anyway? Pg. 8 P2

(Stop at the first paragraph on page 9)

2nd Half of Bill's Story (Starts at the first paragraph on page 9, "The door opened...")

16. Has your human will failed you? "Did you really decide to start drinking or using again or did you just convince yourself it was your decision so you could feel like you were in control"? pg. 11 P3

a. Are you ready to admit complete defeat? What meaning does this have for you? Pg. 11 P3

17. Do you understand that you can choose your own conception of God? That it only has to make sense to you? Pg. 12 P2

18. Do I believe if I do not work with others, I will surely drink again? Or live like I need a drink. Pg. 13 top P – L3

19. Am I willing to abandon myself with the enthusiasm to the idea of helping other alcoholics/addicts to a solution of their problems? Pg. 15 P1 – L1

20. Am I willing to attend meetings frequently so that the newcomer may find the fellowship they seek? Pg. 15 P2 – L14

THERE'S A SOLUTION
PART 1 – PHYSICAL CRAVING
Page 17 – Page 23

1. Was I as hopeless as Bill (want to quit but can't) Pg. 17 P1 –L3

a. Is there any other hope for me? In what way? Pg. 17 P1 –L4

b. Is the fellowship by itself (just going to meetings) enough for me to stay sober? Explain. Pg. 17 P2 -L16

c. Do I have a way to stay clean and sober without help? What are they? Pg. 17 L3- P2

2. Have I come to believe I suffer from an illness: Physically? Mentally? Spiritually? How does each one affect me? pg. 18 P1 – L1

a. Did it affect the people around me in a way no other human sickness can? Who was affected? Pg. 18 P1 – L2

b. Was I unable to discuss my situation without lying to my spouse, parents or intimate friends? Pg. 18 P3 – L3

3. When approaching a potential sponsor or step partner, was he/she like me? pg. 19 top margin:

a. Did he/she obviously know what they were talking about? Pg. 19 P5 – L2

b. Does their behavior shout at the new prospect that they are a person with a real answer? (Living the Big Book). Pg. 18 P5 L2

c. Does he/she have no attitude of Holier than Thou (thinking they are better than anyone else)?
Pg. 18 P5 L5 _____

4. Is the elimination of my drinking /drugging enough, or is this just a beginning? Pg. 19 P1 - L3

a. If I keep on 'just not drinking' even though things get better, do I believe the surface of the
problem is hardly scratched? Why? Pg. 19 P2 – L1

5. Does my life depend upon my constant thought of others and how I may help meet their needs? As a
newcomer what can I do to help? Pg. 20 P(top) – L2

6. Am I curious to discover how and why these people have recovered from a hopeless condition of mind
and body? Pg. 20 P1-L3

7. Can I use alcohol/drugs or just leave it alone?
Pg. 20 P3 – L1

a. Can I just quit? Pg. 20 P3 – L4

b. Could I handle my liquor? Drugs? Pg. 20 P3 – L4

c. Do I have a choice? pg. 20 P3 – L5

d. Is my willpower weak? Pg. 20 P3 – L5

e. Could I stop if I wanted to? Pg. 20 P3 – L6

f. Could I stop for her/him? When have I? Pg. 20 P3 – L7

8. If the doctor told me that if I ever drank again it would kill me, could I stop?
Pg. 20 P3 – L8

9. Do I believe the people who can do these are physically and mentally very different from me? Pg. 20
P4 – L4

The 3 Types of Drinkers

THE MODERATE DRINKER

Type 1: The moderate Drinker/Drug user. We have all known people who would have a glass of wine with dinner and leave half of it on the table, or after a couple of drinks, something like “Oh...I’m starting to feel this, I better not have any more”. There were also people who could stash a gram of cocaine indefinitely, or did a couple of lines and quit because they had to go to work.

10. Could I give up liquor (drugs) entirely if I were given a good reason for it? Pg. 20 P5 – L1

11. Can I take it or leave it alone? Alcohol? Drugs? Pg. 20 P5 – L3

12. Am I a moderate drinker? User? Have I ever been? Do you know people like this? Who? Pg. 20 – end
P5 L3

THE HARD DRINKER

Type 2: There are those people too, who we drank or used with, who were able to keep up with us. They drank as much as we did, used the same drugs we did, but something happened which caused them to stop or moderate on their own. Perhaps they got married, had a child, got a DUI, or went back to school. They grew out of it, while we continued to grow into it. Though they may have drank or used as much or more than we did, they are very different from a real alcoholic or drug addict.

13. Did I have the habit badly enough to gradually impair me physically and mentally? Pg. 20 P6-L2

a. Could it cause me to die a few years before my time? Pg. 21 P(top) L1

b. Could I stay stopped if given a sufficiently strong reason? Examples:

Ill health? _____

Falling in love? When? _____

Change of environment? When? _____

The warning of a doctor? Pg. 21 P(top) L2 _____

c. If a doctor, employer, judge or probation officer told you stop for good, could you do it? Pg. 21 P1 _____

d. If you fell in love, and she/he told you to stop for good, could you do it? _____

e. If you moved to a different place, could you stop forever? Pg. 21 P1

14. Am I a hard drinker? User? pg. 21 end of P(top) L7

a. Does this describe you or do you know people who did stop for reasons like these? Describe. Page 20, P6. Page 21 Top P _____

THE REAL ALOHOLIC

15. Did I start off as a moderate drinker? User? pg. 21 P1 – L1

a. Did I become a continuous hard drinker? Drug user? Pg. 21 P1 – L2

16. Did I at some stage of my drinking and/or using lose control of the amount I drank (or used) once I started to drink? Pg. 21 P1 – L3

a. Can I stay stopped on my own like the moderate or hard drinker can? Am I physically a real alcoholic and/or addict? Pg. 21 top margin

b. Were you a real a Dr. Jekyll and My Hyde?

c. Were seldom mildly intoxicated? More or less insanely drunk or high? Explain

d. Was the person you became while drunk or high very different from who you were sober, if so how? _____

e. Did you have a knack for getting loaded at the worst possible time?

f. Do you go to bed loaded and wake up looking for a bottle, a joint and the rest of the cocaine or crystal? _____

g. Did you stash alcohol and drugs?

h. Did you mix drugs with alcohol just so you could function?

i. Does this description roughly sound like you?

17. Why can't I stay stopped? Pg. 22 P2 – L4

- a. What has become of my common sense and will power that I still sometimes display with respect to other matters? Pg. 22 P2 L5

18. Does my experience abundantly confirm that once I take any alcohol/drugs whatever into my system, something happens both in my body and my mind which makes it virtually impossible to stop until I get to that place, it may be 3 hours or 3 days? Pg. 22 P4

END OF PHYSICAL CRAVING, BEGINNING OF MENTAL OBSESSION.

THERE IS A SOLUTION – part 2
Step 1 – The Mental Obsession
Page 23 – 29

Am I mentally powerless over alcohol before I take the first drink?

1. Are these observations about the physical craving important to know but pointless if I just never took the first drink, that sets the terrible cycle in motion? (CRAVING...OBSESSION/CRAVING...OBSESSION) Pg. 23 P1 – L1

- a. Therefore, do I believe the main problem centers in my mind rather than in my body? Pg. 23 P1 – L3

- b. Could I always find an excuse to drink? Pg. 23 P- L7

- c. Did this malady of the mind have a real hold on me and was I baffled? Pg. 23 P2 – L6

2. Have I suffered from the obsession that somehow, someday, I will control and enjoy my drinking? Using? Pg. 23 P2 – L7

3. Do I believe I can assert my power of will to stay stopped forever? Pg. 23 P3 – L5

- a. Have I lost mental control over staying stopped? Pg. 23 P4 – L2

4. Will my strongest desire to stop drinking / using keep me sober? What have I tried? Pg. 24 P(top) – L3

a. Have I lost the power of choice in drink or did I reach a point where I chose not to drink? ...or was there more involved than choice? Pg. 24 P1 – L2

b. Has my so called will power become weak and practically non-existent? Pg. 24 P1 – L3

c. Was I unable at certain times, to bring into my mind with sufficient force, the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago? Give an example. (Just remembering that I got a DUI never kept me sober) Pg. 24 P1 – L4

5. Am I without defense against the next drug or drink? Pg. 24 P1 – L7

a. Did I ever choose not to, but drank anyway? Pg. 24 P1

6. Do I think the consequences that follow taking even a glass of beer or a line of coke would stop me? Pg. 24 P2 – L1

a. If I start to think it through when these thoughts occur, are they hazy? Pg. 24 P2 – L3

b. Have I said to myself in a casual way “it won’t hurt me this time?” pg. 24 P3 – L1

c. ...or perhaps at times I did not think at all? Pg. 24 P3-L3

d. Based on your own experience, is there any reason why “thinking through the first drink or drug” will ever work in the future? Pg. 24

7. Have I asked myself before “how did I ever get started again?” pg. 24 P 3 –L6

8. Do I think anything human can stop that part of me that takes me to the first drink? (Like threats of losing my job or marriage) Pg. 24 P4 – L3

9. Do I believe that this 12-step process is what’s required for me to change and that is my only solution? Explain why. Pg. 25 P1 – L4

a. Have I seen that it really worked in others? Who? Pg. 25 P1 – L4

10. Had I come to believe in the hopelessness and futility of my life as I had been living it? Pg. 25 P1 – L5

a. Was I approached by others in whom the problem had been solved? Who? Pg. 25 P1 – L7

b. Is there anything left for me but to pick up the simple kit of spiritual tools laid at my feet (12-steps)? pg. 25 P1 – L9

11. Do I believe there’s anything less for me than a deep and effective spiritual experience which will revolutionize my whole attitude toward life, toward my fellows and toward God’s universe? Explain. Pg. 25 P2 – L2

12. Do I believe there is any middle of the road solution for me? Why? (A middle of the road solution is anything that doesn’t help me have a deep and effective spiritual experience) Pg. 25 P3 – L1

- a. Was I in a position where life was becoming impossible, and I had passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid? "What could any person tell you or do for you that would make you stop drinking or using for good and all"? Pg. 25 P3 – L3

- b. Do I have any alternatives: But to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of my intolerable situation as best I could (acting out in other areas of my life); or to accept spiritual help? Explain. Pg. 25 P3 – L5

13. Do I honestly want to and am I willing to make the effort to accept spiritual help? How will that look? Pg. 25 P(top) – L1

14. Do I believe that with a profound knowledge of the inner working of my mind that relapse is unthinkable? Why? Pg. 26 P1- L11

- a. Do I think I can quit forever without spiritual help? Why or why not? Pg. 27 P1 – L2

15. Do I believe I have the mind of a chronic (persistent & reoccurring) alcoholic? Drug addict? Pg. 27 P2 – L1

16. Am I an alcoholic (drug addict) and do I really want this program? What makes me the real alcoholic and/or addict? Pg. 29 P3 – L6

17. If I am an alcoholic, powerless over alcohol and never going to regain control, do I have a choice? Explain Pg. 29 (top paragraph)

18. How can I admit powerlessness over alcohol/drugs, then say I have a choice today, or that I ever did?
pg. 29 (top paragraph)

CONSIDERATION:

How is it that I have a sobriety date if once I take the first drink or drug something happens in both my body and mind that makes it virtually impossible to stop? Pg. 25

MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM

PART 1

Step 1 – The Mental Obsession

Page 30 – top 37

Have I been unwilling to admit I'm a real alcoholic and/or addict?

1. Am I bodily and mentally different from others in how I drink and/or use? Pg. 30 P1 – L3

- a. Has my drinking career been characterized by countless vain attempts to control my drinking and/or using? Give a few examples. Pg. 30 P1 – L4

- b. Has the idea that somehow, someday I will control and enjoy my drinking / using, been an obsession of mine? Pg. 30 P1 – L6

- c. Was the persistence of this illusion astonishing (I could control my drinking and using) and did I pursue it into the gates of insanity or death? Pg. 30 P1 – L9

2. Have I learned that I had to fully concede to my innermost self that I am an alcoholic? Addict? Pg. 30 P2 – L1

- a. Do I believe the delusion that I'm like other people, even now sober, has to be smashed? How I am different? Pg. 30 P2 – L3

3. Have I lost the ability to control my drinking / using, the amount I take, or staying stopped? Pg. 30 P3 – L1

- a. Do I believe that I will ever recover control? Pg. 30 P3 – L3

b. Have I felt at times I was regaining control? How? Pg. 30 P3 – L3

c. But weren't such intervals – usually brief – inevitably followed by still less control, which led in time to doing things I promised I would never do (incomprehensible demoralization)? Give a few examples. Pg. 30 P3 – L4

d. Am I convinced that I'm in the grip of a progressive illness and over any considerable period I get worse, never better? Pg.30 P3 – L8

4. Does there appear to be any kind of treatment which will make me like other people? Pg. 30 P4 – L2

5. In some instances, has there been brief recovery? When? Pg. 31 P(top) L2

6. Wasn't it followed always by a still worse relapse? Give an example.
Pg. 31 P(top) – L3

a. Do I believe there is no such thing as making a normal drinker out of an alcoholic and/or addict?
Pg. 31 P(top) – L5

7. By every form of denial and experimentation have I tried to prove myself an exception to the rule therefore non-alcoholic / non-addict? Pg. 31 P1 – L2

a. Have I tried hard and long enough to drink and use like other people? Pg. 31 P1 – L8

Which of these methods have you tried to drink like other people?:

Drinking beer only ___ Limiting the number of drinks ___ never drinking alone ___

Never drinking in the morning: ___ Drinking only at home: ___ Never having it at home ___

Never drinking during business hours: ___ Only drinking at parties: ___

Switching from Scotch to Brandy: ___ Drinking only natural wines: ___
Agreeing to resign if ever to drink on the job: ___ Taking a trip: ___
Not taking a trip: ___ Swearing off forever, with or without a solemn oath: ___
Taking on more exercise: ___ Reading inspirational books: ___
Going to rehabs and spas: ___ Accepting voluntary commitment to treatment: ___
We could increase the list, ad infinitum! (Share your list with your sponsor or step guide. Write some of your own):

8. Do I believe having a long period of sobriety will be powerful enough for me to choose whether I drink or use again? Pg. 32 L2 – L13

9. Do I believe to stop drinking (using), there must be no reservation of any kind, nor any lurking notion that someday, somehow, I will be able to use alcohol/drugs, normally? Pg. 33 P1 – L9

10. Do I feel I had gone on drinking (using) years beyond the point where I could quit on my own will power? Pg. 34 – P1 – L1

- a. Could I leave liquor or drugs (meth, heroin, marijuana) alone for one year on my own without a program? Pg. 34 – P1 – L4

- b. Do I desire to stop entirely? Pg. 34 P2 – L3

- c. Can I stay stopped upon a nonspiritual basis, by choice? Pg. 34 P2 – L4

- d. Have I lost the power to choose whether I will drink or not? Pg. 34 P2 – L5

- e. Was I confused about my utter inability to leave alcohol (drugs) alone, no matter how great the necessity or the wish? Pg. 34 P2 – L10

11. Do I believe the mental states that precede a relapse into drinking (using) is the center of my problem?
Pg. 35 P(top) – L1

12. Do I believe that if I fail to enlarge my spiritual life I will drink (use) again? Or live like I need a drink or drug? Pg. 35 P3 – L5

13. Were there times when all good reasons for not drinking were easily pushed aside in favor of the foolish idea that I could control my drinking (using)? Example? Pg. 36 P3 – L6

List below the 10 most insane things you ever did when you were drunk or high:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

MORE ABOUT ALCOHOLISM

PART 2

Step 1 – The Mental Obsession

Page 37 - 43

1. Have I suffered from a distorted ability to think straight about my drinking (using) to see the truth? Pg. 37 P1 – L3

2. Did my best thinking fail to hold me in check and did my insane idea win out so I drank or used anyway? Example? Pg. 37 L2 – P8

Go back and review the list of the 10 most insane things you ever did when you were loaded. The most insane thing you ever did is probably not on this list, because you did it sober. In all likelihood, the most insane thing you did was this: with the things on this list happening when you got loaded, you made a decision to drink or use drugs again, and you made this decision when you were as sober as you are now.

3. Do I believe I could stay stopped on the basis of self-knowledge? Pg. 39 P1 – L7

4. Do I believe that the humiliating experience, plus the knowledge I have acquired, (applying all these things you have learned about yourself and your disease up to this point) will keep me sober the rest of my life? Self-knowledge will fix me? Pg. 40 P(top) –L4

5. Do I believe that having an alcoholic (addict) mind, the time and place will come when by myself, on my own power – I will drink (use) again? Pg. 41 P2 – L8

6. On my own power, though I may raise a fight, will I someday give way to some trivial reason for having a drink (drug)? Pg. 42 P(top) – L1

- a. Do I believe this problem has me hopelessly defeated? Pg. 42 P(top) – L9

b. Has this process snuffed out the last flicker of conviction that I could do the job myself? "I can keep myself sober?" Pg. 42 P1 – L9

7. Do I believe I will have to throw several lifelong conceptions out of the window to go through this program of action? Give an example. "I can do the job myself" Pg. 42 P2 – L6

8. Do I believe it's important to discover how spiritual principles will solve all my problems, and that this is not just about not drinking or using? Pg. 42 P3 – L1

a. Is there any doubt in my mind that I'm 100% hopeless, apart from divine help, or is there any other solution for me? What? Pg. 43 P3 – L7

b. Do I believe at certain times I have no effective mental defense against the first drink or drug? Do I know when that time is? Pg. 43 P3 – L1

c. Do I believe that no human being can provide such a defense? Pg. 43 P3 – L4

d. Must my defense come from a Higher Power other than human? Pg. 43 P3 – L4

e. ...then how can I depend on the group as my Higher Power? Pg. 43 P3

CONSIDERATION

If I have a sobriety date that is 10 days or more and I have no effective mental defense against the first drink, how is it that I continue to have this sobriety date no matter what I've thought?

WE AGNOSTIC

Step 1

...and that our lives had become unmanageable

Page 44, 45, & 52

*Unmanageability, untreated alcoholism, spiritual malady.
This condition exists before and after the first drink, drunk or sober*

1. In the preceding chapters have I learned something about alcoholism? What is the main thing I must have to be a real alcoholic/addict? Pg. 44 P1 – L1

2. Have they made clear the differences between the alcoholic and the nonalcoholic? What are the main differences? Pg. 44 P1 – L2

3. When I honestly wanted to did I find I could not quit entirely? Pg. 44 P1 – L4

4. When drinking or using did I have little control over the amount I took after the first drink? Drug? Pg. 44 P1 – L5

5. Am I an alcoholic? An addict? Or both? Pg. 11 P1 – L7

6. Faced with these two problems, do I believe I'm suffering from an illness which only a spiritual experience will conquer or do I have any other options? List them. Pg. 44 P1 – L7

7. Am I an alcoholic (and/or addict) of the hopeless variety, one who wants to quit but can't? pg. 44 P2 – L3

8. Have I faced the fact that I must find a spiritual basis of life – or else? Pg. 44 P3 – L5

9. In my case is a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life sufficient to overcome alcoholism (or drug addiction) or if they were would I have recovered long ago? Pg. 44 P 4 – L1

10. Do I believe knowing the way of thinking and living described in this book will save me, or do I need access to Power from this process to overcome alcoholism (addiction)? Pg. 44 P4 – L2

11. Have I found that such codes and philosophies did not save me, no matter how much I tried? What have I tried? Pg. 45 P(top) L1

a. Could I wish to think and act right and pull it off? Pg. 45 P(top) L3

b. Did I wish to have a belief system that comforts me? Pg. 45 P(top) L4

c. Did I want these things with all my might but found the needed power wasn't there? Pg. 45 P(top) L5

12. Have my human resources (job, education, everything I bring to the table, etc.), as guided by my will power (my mind), not been sufficient to create the life I want? Did I fail completely? Pg.45 P(top) L6

13. Is lack of power my problem (dilemma)? Pg. 45 P1 – L1

14. Must I find a power by which I can live? pg. 45 P1 – L2

a. Is this obvious? Why? Pg. 45 P1 – L3

b. Where and how am I to find this Power? Pg. 45 P1 – L3

The 3rd part of the first step deals with the unmanageability of the spirit. Why is it that no matter what the consequences, we always end up taking the first drink or the first line? Without something to take the place of alcohol and/or drugs in our lives, we are doomed. Many of us thought that if we just stay off the booze and drugs, life would be wonderful, but we later discovered this was not so. Abstinence from drinking or using alone, without working the steps may feel good for a while, but it's much like peeing in your pants on a really cold day. It feels nice and warm for a while, but when the cold wind blows it is obviously not a long-term solution. We become so restless, irritable and discontent that after a time, we cannot imagine how getting drunk or high could make life any worse, so we do. We need to find a way to experience a sense of ease and comfort without drinking or taking drugs. This spiritual unmanageability is what the other 11 steps treat. When the spiritual malady is overcome, we straighten out mentally and physically (page 64). This part of step 1, unmanageability, is just us on our own power trying to run our lives, drunk or sober.

15. Am I willing to change my point of view concerning my human problems as I changed my point of view concerning the obsession and the craving? Maybe the problem is inside rather than outside? Pg. 52 P2 –L1

a. Are you having trouble with personal relationships? With whom? (Family, Fellowship, Intimate Relationship, Friends, Work) Pg. 52 P2 – L3

b. Can I control my emotional nature (not my emotions, how I experience the world on the inside)? Pg. 52 P2 – L4

c. Am I prey to misery and depression? When? Pg. 52 P2 – L5

d. Can I make a living satisfying enough to keep me happy or sober? Pg. 52 P2 – L6

e. Do I have a feeling of uselessness? In what way, at home, work? Pg. 52 P2 – L6

f. Am I full of fear? What are you afraid of? Pg. 52 P2 – L7

g. Am I unhappy? In what ways? Pg. 52 P2 – L7

h. Do I seem unable to be of real help to other people? Pg. 52 P2 – L8

i. Is a basic solution for these problems of lack of power, important for me? Pg. 52 P2 – L9

CONSIDERATION:

If I have a sobriety date that is 10 days or more and I lack the power to live on the necessary spiritual basis of life, how is it that I continue to have this sobriety date, no matter what forms the spiritual malady is taking?