1. **Lesson #5 TURN** (Pastor Tom)
   a. Ok, tonight we move into Principle 3, and Step 3.
      i. Principle 3: *“Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ’s care and control.”*
      ii. Step 3: *“We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.”*

   b. If you know the “AA 12 steps” you would know that it reads: *“Turn our wills and lives over...”* Our program has **these reversed** to read: *“Turn our lives and our wills over...”* – why? Because we believe that “Lives” must be fully surrendered **FIRST** before our Wills can be turned over to Him.
      i. Many try to do this the AA way – and fail.
         1. Still AA is better than not trying at all.
   c. So – Begs a good question: “HOW do you do that?” How do you turn your life & will over to your Higher Power, Jesus Christ ??? We will answer this tonight.
   d. Go to your **handout** and tonight’s **Acrostic** and we will answer this question
   e. The “T” in TURN stands for **Trust**. Check out this video that makes a sobering point:
      i. (VIDEO HERE: Skit Guys: Trust Fall)
      ii. Think about the people we trust every day
         1. Someone waving us out into traffic – 18 wheeler on decline
         3. Mechanics who work on jet engines
         4. People will obey traffic lights
         5. Man who made this chair
      iii. So WHY is it so hard for us to trust our lives to the care of God.
         1. John Baker said: *“I would rather walk with God in the darkest valley than to walk with a stranger in the light.”*
      iv. In Principle 3 you make the one-time **DECISION** to turn your life over to the care of God.
         1. **It’s our “Choices” not “chance” in life that determines our destiny !!!**
         2. We choose to have FAITH – pure & simple
v. SO, how do we define Faith here in our little group on Mondays?
   1. Faith is simply taking God at His word.
      a. In Romans 10:9 it says: “...if you declare w/your lips & believe w/ your heart, you will be saved.”
   2. Now for some that’s just too simple. Some people think that being saved (and remaining saved) is very difficult and complicated. But it isn’t.
      a. Good news is: Our salvation depends on God’s love for us, not our love for Him.

f. OK, Next letter in our TURN Acrostic is “U”. This stands for UNDERSTANDING
   i. Relying on our “own understanding” is what got most (if not all ) of us into trouble in first Place.
      1. It’s more than merely asking Jesus into your heart & life –
      2. You need to begin to seek His will for your entire life - in ALL your decisions.
   ii. Proverbs 3: 5-6 pulls the first two letters of our acrostic together. It says:
      1. “TRUST in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own UNDERSTANDINGS; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (repeat)
      2. Do you see the direct implication here? - OUR understanding is earthbound – limited – finite.
         a. We see in the here & now. He (God) sees forever
      3. Have you ever struggled with “NOT being able to see everything to understand everything? I have! It’s really a pride thing – you know.
         a. I Corinthians 13:9-13 puts it all in perspective for us:
            i. “...for our gifts of knowledge...are only PARTIAL; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear...what we see now is like the dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete, as complete as God’s knowledge of me.”
ii. Someday we will stand face to face w/Jesus – at that moment there will be no misunderstandings – we will not need anyone to interpret for us.

4. Some feel that they need to understand it all before they can receive Jesus into their hearts. Praise God we do NOT need that.

g. OK, our next letter in the TURN acrostic is “R” which stands for REPENT

i. ASK: How would you define Repentance?

ii. Repentance – now this is a big subject – which most people mess up.

iii. OK, have you ever known people who think that they repent of their sins by thanking God that they aren’t as bad as others – maybe even you?
   1. Well, that’s not true repentance
   2. True Repentance affects our whole person and changes our entire view of life.
   3. Repentance is looking at our lives through lens of our faith

iv. True Repentance requires two deliberate ACTIONS:
   1. First; turn away from your sins
   2. Second; turn toward God.

v. Bible has a lot to say about Repentance: Here are 3 examples:
   1. Mark 1:15, Turn from your sins and act on this glorious news!
   2. Ezekiel 18:30, Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.
   3. Romans 12:2, Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remake you so that your whole attitude of mind is changed.

vi. It seems most people repent of their sins more from a fear of punishment than from a REAL CHANGE of heart.
   1. But remember that Repentance is not self loathing – it’s God Loving.
   2. God doesn’t look forward to punishing you. He’s waiting for you to turn toward him.
3. Once you choose to turn from your sin toward him He gives you what the last letter in our acrostic stands for....

h. “N” in TURN stands for “New Life”
   i. This New Life is result of practicing these three deliberate actions of Trusting, Understanding, Repenting.
   ii. After you accept Jesus into your heart you have a NEW LIFE. You are no longer BOUND to your old sinful nature. You receive a new loving nature. **BUT** you have to **choose** to let it out.
   iii. God has declared you “Not Guilty” and the power of sin no longer has a hold on you.
      1. Romans 3:22 says it well: “**Now God says he will accept and acquit us – declare us “not guilty” – if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins.**”
      2. II Cor 5:17 says: “**When anyone is joined in Christ he is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.**”
   
3. **SOME** of you have done this thing a long time ago, and you are wondering why your life is still such a mess. Some are saying that things haven’t changed that much since you were saved.
   a. Well, all I can say to that is: you’ve never fully submitted yourself to the spiritual disciplines in your life – which in effect means: **you may not have ever fully SURRENDERED your life to Christ in the first place.** It’s the only explanation that makes sense.
   b. OK, I come back to where I began this lesson: Principle 3, Step 3 (**turning our lives and our wills over to Christ**)
      i. You may have turned your life over to him alright, but maybe NEVER turned your Will over.
      ii. Turning your life over is a “Once & Done” thing. However, turning your Will over is a **daily occurrence**, and requires daily recommitment!
iii. You can begin by:
   1. Getting into your Bible regularly
   2. Opening it prayerfully
   3. Reading it expectantly
   4. And Living it Joyfully.

   c. If you have never received Jesus into your heart to be your Higher Power, I encourage you to do so this very hour – tonight. What are you waiting for?
   
d. If you wish to recommit your life to Christ and once and for all commit your will over to Him, you can do that too. It’s simple really. You can do both or either of these this evening.
      i. If you want you can pray this prayer with me.
      
         ii. “Dear God, I have tried to do it all by myself on my own power; and I have failed. Tonight I want to turn my life over to You. I ask You to be my Lord and my Savior. You are the One and only Higher Power! I ask that You help me think less about me and my will. I want to daily turn my will over to You; to daily seek Your direction and wisdom for my life. Please continue to help me overcome my Hurts, Hang-ups, and Habits, and may that victory over them help others as they see Your power at work in changing my life. Help me to do Your will always.

iii. INDEED, we invite you to Write Your Story on our hearts

iv. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

2. Dismiss to Open Share Groups
   a. Newcomers to room 304 with Ron.