



The Awakening

July, 2006

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

LIGHTS!... CAMERA!...

Ever wanted to rewrite the script of your life story and create a happy ending? Well, the 12 Steps of AA are a great outline!



The Sunset and Sunrise Group have joined for an all-day "Into the Actions" step study workshop here on Sunday, July 16th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This intensive journey will focus on the "action steps" 4 through 9 and will feature Ralph W. of Los Angeles and Candice M. of Long Beach. Lunch will be provided, so bring your Big Book and bring a friend! It's an "all day at a time" experience!

4-9: THE ACTION STEPS

Successful practice of A.A.'s 12 Steps depends on action, and these steps are like a script which can only come alive when that actors play their parts.

STEP 4: TAKING INVENTORY

We want to find exactly how, when, and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move toward their correction. Without a willing and persistent effort to do this, there can be little sobriety or contentment for us.

STEP 5: MAKING A CONFESSION

Few muddled attitudes have caused us more trouble than holding back on Step Five. Some people are unable to stay sober at all; others will relapse periodically until they really clean house.

STEPS 6 AND 7: REMOVING DEFECTS AND SHORTCOMINGS

The often disputed question of whether God can—and will, under certain conditions—remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life.

STEPS 8 AND 9: REPAIRING THE WRECKAGE OF OUR PAST

Steps 8 and 9 are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

*12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous
(available at out literature table)*

AA's monthly magazines *The Grapevine* and *La Viña* are online!

www.aagrapevine.org

Now with downloadable .mp3 audio files and 60 years of archives!



The Sunset Group

Thursdays at 7:00 pm
Jewish Community Center
13164 Burbank Boulevard
Sherman Oaks, California

July 6

*John A. of Laguna
Woods*

July 13

Patti G. of Culver City

July 20

Tim H. of Bellflower

July 27

Nancy C. of Downey

August 3

Patrick G. of Lompoc

August 10

*Scott T. of Coldbrook,
N.Y.*

August 17

*John C. of Santa
Barbara*

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THE 12 STEPS A "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

"Having had a spiritual awakening as THE result of these steps..."

Wait a minute? What about "not drinking?"

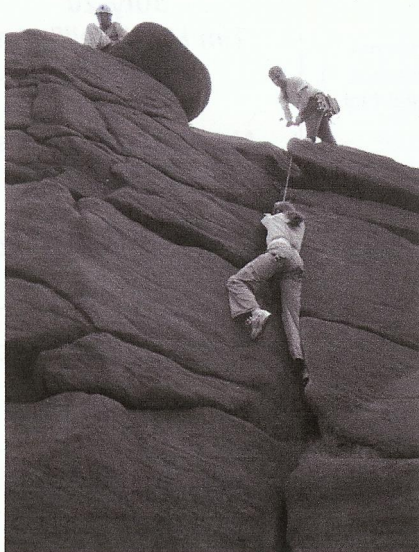


At most meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, someone reads the 12 Steps. Sometimes the message of the 12th step is perhaps not clearly heard. The wording is, however, very clear. What is "the" result of these steps? "...having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps"! Is it merely stopping drinking? That may occur much much earlier in this process. For some, that happens at their first meeting. For others, periods of relapse occur. Recovery, after all, does not occur through abstinence. The real result of the 12 Steps is "a spiritual awakening". If this doesn't sound exciting or good enough now, here are some words of explanation from 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, often called "the 12 & 12":

THE joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all twelve steps of the program in our daily lives **so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.** (*emphasis added - ed.*) When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening.

Now, what about the rest of the Twelfth Step? The wonderful energy it releases and the eager action by which it carries our message to the next suffering alcoholic and which finally translates the Twelve Steps into action upon all our affairs is the payoff, the magnificent reality, of Alcoholics Anonymous. Even the newest of newcomers finds undreamed rewards as he tries to help his brother alcoholic, the one who is even blinder than he. This is indeed the kind of giving that actually demands nothing.



"... the principle of one alcoholic helping another..."

Join us on our exciting climb to recovery at either or both of our meetings.

The Thursday night Sunset Group is a Speaker Meeting. Two speakers share their experience, strength, and hope, followed by ten minutes of questions and answers. Then join us at the Sunrise Group's Saturday morning step study. It features a speaker taking us through their selected pages of The Big Book dealing with a specific step followed by a 25-minute question period. Coffee and pastries are served.



SUNRISE GROUP
Saturday Morning
Step Study
8:15 am

above Jerry's Deli and PINZ
Bowling Alley
12655 Ventura Blvd
Studio City, CA

July 1
Pat P. of Crenshaw
Step 12

July 8
Matthew M. on Santa Monica
Step 12

July 15
Bob D. of Las Vegas
Service

July 22
Jeff J. of Studio City
Traditions 4, 5, & 6

July 29
TBA
Step 1

Unless directly quoted from conference approved literature and cited, the views expressed in *The Awakening* are opinions expressed by members of the Sunrise and Sunset Groups of Alcoholics Anonymous and in no way express any official view of Alcoholics Anonymous. All interested are urged to obtain a copy of *The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*, available here at cost as well as 12 Steps & 12 Traditions or any of our free pamphlets and other literature.