

What is my REAL Purpose?

Having completed Step Five and learned that selfishness – self-centeredness was the root of all my troubles, and having made a commitment to God that I would become a serious student and practitioner of the Big Book in Step Six and having humbly asked Him to start making me different in Step Seven, I learn what the Program is really all about. “My REAL purpose is to fit myself to be of maximum service to God and the people about me.” And since I know little if anything about how to go about doing that, I must continue to refer to my Basic Text for directions.

And Step Twelve makes the statement that I am to “practice these principles in ALL my affairs.” We were informed earlier in the Big Book that, “The elimination of drinking was but a beginning. A much more important demonstration of our principles (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) lies before us in our respective homes, occupations and affairs.” And later on, we are informed that, “Giving rather than getting becomes our guiding principle.”

The real solution to my selfish way of living is in applying the Twelve Steps to every area of my life, moment by moment, and day by day. But to help me focus on specific areas of my life, the Big Book includes four Chapters to help me get started fitting myself for my REAL purpose to those in my life other than the alcoholic who suffers. There is a Chapter on how to help the family of the alcoholic. There is a very important Chapter on how to bring our Program into my home and make it available to my family. There is a Chapter outlining how to bring our Program into the work place. And there is a Chapter giving me the directions on how to successfully bring Alcoholics Anonymous into my part of the world, how to start a group. All that is contained between pages 104 and 164 in my Basic Text. I need to be familiar with this information so when an opportunity presents itself, I will know what to do.

But there is one more study I need to undertake and that is to become knowledgeable in the Twelve Traditions. If, at some later date, I find myself involved in Inter Group Service, I will need to become knowledgeable in the life propagating Twelve Concepts. But until that time, I must do the very best I can do in living by the life giving Twelve Steps and honor the life saving Twelve Traditions.

Giving rather than getting becomes our guiding principle!