

## ABANDON PART 6 - ABANDON YOURSELF TO GOD

The Word “abandon” is used a number of times in the Big Book and the 12x12 and in several ways.

Webster Dictionary gives several definitions of abandon ... to give up to the control or influence of ... to give up with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest ... to withdraw protection, support, or help from ... to give (oneself) over unrestrainedly ... a thorough yielding to something.

In this series of six (6) lessons on Abandon, Bill W uses several of these definitions in his writing.

Only God has the wisdom and power needed to direct the affairs of man’s life. Many of us have tried to direct their own affairs but fail miserably at it. As our Creator and the one who formed us in the womb, who knows us better, our abilities, our weaknesses, and all the details of our lives than God? The prophet Jeremiah said, “Lord, we know that people do not control their own destiny. It is not in their power to determine what will happen to them” (Jeremiah 10:23). Because of our limited wisdom and ability, and our sinfulness, we do not have what it takes to direct our steps in the ways of God. What seems right to us results in the way of destruction and death. As our thoughts are not God’s, so our ways will fall short of God’s plan for our lives. The prophet Isaiah spoke God’s words to us when he wrote, “Indeed, my plans are not like your plans, and my deeds are not like your deeds, for just as the sky is higher than the earth, so my deeds are superior to your deeds and my plans superior to your plans” (Isaiah 55:8-9). Bill W. knew that we would need help in our journey through life and that if we ask God to help us, we would be better off. Here is what he said.

BB,p164 ... Our book is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order. But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us. Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

- a) Who knows us better than anyone else?
- b) Why can't we control what happens to us?

- c) What is a time of meditation?
- d) How would you define meditation?
- e) What do you think Bill means when he says that we should keep our own house in order? Why must we keep our old house in order?
- f) What does it mean to keep our relationship with God, right?
- g) What is the Great Fact that Bill is talking about?
- h) Abandon \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Why?
- i) Admit your \_\_\_\_\_ to Him and to your fellows. Why?
- j) Clear away the \_\_\_\_\_ of your past. Why?
- k) Give \_\_\_\_\_ of what you find. Why?

### **Questions to ask when studying a paragraph or chapter of the Big Book**

- 1) What is the main idea in this paragraph? What is this paragraph really all about?
- 2) What does this paragraph teach me about God?
- 3) What does this passage teach me about another person (alcoholic or addict)? Me?
- 4) Is there something in this paragraph that I need to think about? Do more study on? Pray about? Do? Obey?
- 5) Is there something in this paragraph that God wants me to believe? Some truth to receive? Some promise to claim? Some temptation or sin to reject?
- 6) Is there anything in this paragraph that bothers me? Causes me some concern. Raises questions I don't have answers to? If so, why, and what am I going to do about it?
- 7) Is there some sinful behavior, character defect or attitude in this paragraph that I need to confess, repent of or change?
- 8) Is there something in this paragraph that I need to praise God for?
- 9) List 3 to 5 takeaways (new ideas, new thoughts, questions, suggestions, things you are not sure about, etc.) from this paragraph.
- 10) How can you apply something you gained from this paragraph into your personal life?