

## ABANDON

### PART 1 - ABONDONING THE GOD IDEA

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.

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AA was and is very inclusive. Everyone who has a drinking problem or wants to stop drinking is welcome. With that, there are people from every background of life. From every religious or faith structure. Some belief in God, some don't. Some confess a need for God, some don't. Some people are very sensitive about spiritual issues and do not want to engage in any conversation about them while others want to talk openly about the spiritual life. Bill writes about this several times.

Read pages 45-46 in the Big Book and answer the following questions.

BB,p45...With that rejection we imagined we had abandoned the God idea entirely.

#### Questions from page 45.

How had our power and our will worked? Why?

What was our dilemma? What power?

What did we have to find? Why?

What is the main object of this book?

What kind of book is this?

What is this book going to talk about? Why?

What often happens when we talk about God?

Why do you think the word “God” bothers some people?

Why are some people violently anti-religious?

What is the “God idea” that Bill is talking about?

Why do you think some have abandoned the God idea?

#### Questions from page 46.

What turned us off from God? Why?

What happened when we laid aside prejudice, and expressed a willingness to believe?

What did we discover about other people's conception of God?

Why did we have to do to have this power?  
Does God's drive a hard bargain? Why not?  
Is God exclusive? Why?  
Who is open to God?  
What does faith and dependence on a power beyond ourselves mean to you?

### **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?