

Big Book:

p. 57 “But he has come to all who have honestly sought Him. When we drew near to Him, He disclosed Himself to us!”

p. 62 “So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves...”

p. 63 “Relieve me of the bondage of self...”

p. 68 “We never apologize for God. Instead we let Him demonstrate, through us, what He can do.”

p. 71 “We hope you are convinced now that God can remove whatever self-will has blocked you off from Him.”

p. 75 “We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand and hand with the Spirit of the Universe.”

p. 84 “That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.”

p. 84 “Self-seeking will slip away.”

p. 84 “Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.”

p. 84 “We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.”

p. 84 “We have entered the world of the Spirit.”

p. 85 “Instead, the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us.”

p. 85 “...we have begun to sense the flow of His Spirit into us. To some extent we have become God-conscious. We have begun to develop this vital sixth sense. But we must go further and that means more action.”

p. 87 “If not a member of religious bodies, we sometimes select and memorize a few set prayers which emphasize the principals we have been discussing. There are many helpful books also.”

12 X 12:

p. 68 “Therefore, it seems plain that few of us can quickly or easily become ready to aim at spiritual and moral perfection; we want to settle for only as much perfection as will get us by. So the difference between “the boys and the men” is the difference between striving for a self-determined objective and for the perfect objective which is of God”

p. 68 “If we would gain any real advantage in the use of this step on problems other than alcohol, we shall need to make a brand new venture into open mindedness. We shall need to raise our eyes toward perfection and be ready to walk in that direction.”

p. 72 “As long as we placed self-reliance first, a genuine reliance upon a Higher Power was out of the question.”

p. 72 “For us, the process of gaining a new perspective was unbelievably painful.”

p. 74 “We never wanted to deal with the fact of suffering. Escape via the bottle was always our solution. Character building through suffering might be all right for saints, but it certainly didn’t appeal to us.”

p. 75 “We saw we needn’t always be bludgeoned and beaten into humility. It could come quite as much from our voluntary reaching for it as it could from unremitting suffering.”

p. 75 “A great turning point in our lives came when we sought for humility as something we really wanted, rather than as something we must have.”

p. 75 “We hear story after story of how humility had brought strength out of weakness. In every case, pain had been the price of admission into a new life... We began to fear pain less and desire humility more than ever.”

p. 106 “When a man or a woman has a spiritual awakening, the most important meaning of it is that he has now become able to do, feel and believe that which he could not do before on his unaided strength and resources alone. He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness and being.”

p. 107 “He has been granted a gift which amounts to a new state of consciousness. ...In a very real sense he has been transformed...”

p. 109 “So, practicing these Steps, we had a spiritual awakening about which finally there was no question.”

p. 109 “... we could predict that the doubter who still claimed that he hadn’t got the “spiritual angle,” and who still considered his well-loved A.A. group the higher power, would presently love God and call Him by name.”

p. 110 “...and above all to watch these people awaken to the presence of a loving God in their lives—these things are the substance of what we receive as we carry the A.A. message to the next alcoholic.”

p. 116 “When we developed still more, we discovered the best possible source of emotional stability to be God Himself. We found that dependence upon His perfect justice, forgiveness, and love was healthy, and that it would work where nothing else would”

p. 132 “Where does A.A get its direction? ...the sole authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in the group conscience.”

p. 142 “What would the Master do?”

PERTINANT PASSAGES FROM THE BIG BOOK & THE 12 X 12

The following passages formed the bases for the laying out of this weekend. They constitute the foundation upon which the agenda was created. Maybe they will be useful reading for you:

Big Book:

p. xvii The Doctor's Opinion "One feels that something more than human power is needed to produce the essential psychic change."

p. 25 "We have found much of heaven, and we have been rocketed into a fourth dimension of existence of which we had not even dreamed."

p. 25 "The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives a way which is indeed miraculous."

p. 45 "Well, that's exactly what this book is about. Its main objective is to enable you to find a Power greater than yourself which will solve your problem."

p. 53 "...we had to fearlessly face the proposition that either God is everything or else He is nothing. God either is, or He isn't. What was our choice to be?"

p. 55 "Actually we were fooling ourselves, for deep down in every man, woman, and child is the fundamental idea of God"

p. 55 "We found the Great Reality deep down within us. In the last analysis it is only there that He may be found"

p. 56 "He stood in the Presence of Infinite Power and Love. He had stepped from the bridge to shore. For the first time, he lived in conscious companionship with his Creator."

p.87 "Suggestions about these may be obtained from one priest, minister or rabbi. Be quick to see where religious people are right. Make use of what they offer."

p. 87 "Nevertheless, we find that our thinking will, as time passes, be more and more on the plane of inspiration. We come to rely upon it."

p. 95 "We have no monopoly on God; we merely have an approach that worked with us."

p. 103 "After all, our problems were of our own making."

p. 104 "We are sure God wants us to be happy, joyous and free."

p. 104 "But it is clear that we made our own misery. God didn't do it"

p. 120 "If he gets drunk, don't blame yourself. God has either removed your husband's liquor problem or He has not."

p. 132 “We absolutely insist on enjoying life.”

p. 133 “But it is clear that we made our own misery. God didn’t do it.”

p. 158 “But he had found God—and in finding God had found himself.”

p. 164 “God will constantly disclose more to you and to us.”

p. 164 “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.”

p. 164 “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.”

The Prayer of St. Francis - p. 99

“Lord make me a, channel of thy peace,
that where there is hatred; I may bring love;
that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
that where there is error, I may bring truth;
that where there is doubt., I may bring faith;
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to comforted;
to understand, than to be understood;
to love, than to be loved.
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen”

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p. 76 “Living upon a basis of unsatisfied demands, we were in a state of continual disturbance and frustration. Therefore, no peace was to be had unless we could find a means of reducing these demands.”

p. 90 “It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us.”

p. 93 “Someone who knew what he was talking about once remarked that pain was the touchstone of all spiritual progress. How heartily we can agree with him, for we know that the pains of drinking had to come before sobriety and emotional turmoil before serenity.”

p. 96 “Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God.”

p. 97 “But we recoiled from meditation and prayer as obstinately as the scientist who refused to perform a certain experiment lest it prove his pet theory wrong.”

p. 98 “The actual experience of meditation and prayer across the centuries is, of course, immense. The world’s libraries and places of worship are a treasure trove for all seekers.”

p. 98 “Now and then we may be granted a glimpse of that ultimate reality which is God's kingdom.”

p. 101 “Meditation is something which can always be further developed. It has no boundaries, either of width or height. Aided by such instruction and example as we can find, it is essentially an individual adventure, something which each one of us works out in his own way.”

p. 104 “We discover that we do receive guidance for our lives to just about the extent that we stop making demands upon God to give it to us on our order and on our terms.”