

## ABANDON PART 4 - ASKING FOR GOD'S PROTECTION AND CARE WITH COMPLETE ABANDON.

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.

The great message of the Big Book is there is freedom from the destructive power of addiction. As powerful as the drink or drug is, there is one who is more powerful. He can and does help us when we call on him. His name is God. His power is demonstrated by His ability to accomplish His will in every situation, both real and potential, through any means He chooses in order to glorify Himself. God's power is centered on His will and His glory. Jehoshaphat (king on the nation of Judah in the Old Testament) said, "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are all power and might, so that none is able to withstand you (2 Chronicles 20:6). Here is what Bill W. writes,

BB,p58-59 ... Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are people, who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves. There are such unfortunates. They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. They are naturally incapable of grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty. Their chances are less than average. There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest. Our stories disclose in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now. If you have decided, you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it -- then you are ready to take certain steps. At some of these we balked. We thought we could find an easier, softer way. But we could not. With all the earnestness at our command, we beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely. Remember that we deal with alcohol, cunning, (p59) baffling, powerful! Without help it is too much for us. But there is one who has all power. That one is God. May you find him now! Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked his protection and care with **complete abandon**.

- a) What usually happens when we follow the path of the recovery plan of AA?

- b) What is the result of not giving ourselves completely to the recovery plan of AA?
- c) Why are some people incapable of being honest with themselves? Others?
- d) What is the result of not being honest?
- e) What is Bill talking about when he says we have to decide if we are willing to go to any length to get it (recovery)?
- f) To go to any length, we are ready to do what?
- g) Why do some balk at going to any length?
- h) What is the result of trying to hold on to old ideas?
- i) What are the three words that Bill uses to describe alcohol?
- j) What makes alcohol cunning, baffling, and powerful?
- k) Why is it too much for us?
- l) What power does God have?
- m) Bill's prayer is that we may find God \_\_\_\_\_? What does that mean to you?
- n) Why does half measures avail us nothing?
- o) How do we ask for God's protection and care?
- p) What do you think it means to ask for God's protection and care with "complete abandon" means?

### **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?