

## Two options for living.

In the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, pages 50-52, we find these words to describe the alcoholic /addict life --- intolerant (p50) ... never gave the spiritual side a fair hearing (p50) ... living in the face of collapse ... despair ... total failure...confused (p50) ... baffled by the seeming futility of existence (p51)... living was so unsatisfactory (p51) ... having trouble with personal relationships ... couldn't control our emotional natures ... were a prey to misery and depression ... couldn't make a living ... had a feeling of uselessness ... were full of fear ... unhappy ... couldn't seem to be of real help to other people (p52).

If you suffer from substance abuse, these words describe your life.

Someone said, "a real alcoholic needs a real God to set him free from a real disease".

Bill Wilson wrote on page 25 of the Big Book, "the great fact is just this, and nothing less: that we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe. The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves. If you are as seriously alcoholic as we were, we believe there is no middle-of-the-road solution. We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we had passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: One was to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help.

## WILLING TO DO ANYTHING NECESSARY

In the Big Book, on page 158, you read part of the story of Bill Dotson, (AA #3). Here is what Bill W. writes, "(the) next day found the prospect (Bill D) more receptive. He had been thinking it over. "Maybe you're right," he said. "God ought to be able to do anything." Then he added, "He sure didn't do much for me when I was trying to fight this booze racket alone." On the third day the lawyer (Bill D) gave his life to the care and direction of his Creator (God), and said he was perfectly willing to do anything necessary. His wife came, scarcely daring to be hopeful, though she thought she saw something different about her husband already. He had begun to have a spiritual experience. That afternoon he put on his clothes and walked from the hospital a free man. He entered a political campaign, making speeches, frequenting men's gathering places of all sorts, often staying up all night. He lost the race by only a narrow margin. But he had found God -- and in finding God had found himself. That was in June, 1935. He never drank again. He too, has become a respected and useful member of his community. He has helped other men recover, and is a power in the church from which he was long absent.

## **WE CHOOSE THE LIFE WE WANT TO LIVE.**

We can live by the descriptive words used in the Big Book to describe the life of the active alcoholic and addict or we can surrender our lives to God, asking his help and allowing him to bring about the changes that we need in our life to live with a sense of accomplishment, purpose, and fulfillment.

When we have turned our lives and will over to the care of God, he begins to work in our lives. Bill W. says that God “revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe.” And that He “lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves”. Bill Dotson said, “God ought to be able to do anything” and many of us have found that when we are “perfectly willing to do anything necessary” that we will find God and in finding God we will find ourselves.

## **AGAIN, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TWO OPTIONS FOR LIVING.**

Here are options as described by the Bible ...

**Ephesians 2:1-3 (GEV)** (1) Before you turned your will and live over to the care of God you lived life with little or no regard for God ... you were the manager of your life and the result was a mess ... you were spiritual dead (you were living but you were dead inside) ... because you were unwilling to bring your life in line with that God says about living life, you were doomed to hell. (2) You allowed those who don't know one thing about God to influence how you lived your life ... the result was you rejected what God said about living life and you did what you wanted to do ... for most, without consciously knowing it, you lived under the influence of the demons of hell whose objective is to “kill, steal and destroy” everything that God wants to do in you and for you. (3) Before you turned your will and life over to the care of God, taking him as the manager of your life you did what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it and didn't care what God or anyone else thought ... as a result of your way of living, which was rejecting God's plan for your life, you were heading for hell and had little or no care ... it doesn't make any difference how “goody two-shoes” you were or how bad you were, you simply living life your way was a rejection of God's way and hell is the result

**Ephesians 5:15-18 (CEV)** Act like people with good sense and not like fools. (16) These are evil times, so make every minute count. (17) Don't be stupid. Instead, find out what the Lord wants you to do. (18) Don't destroy yourself by getting drunk, but let the Spirit fill your life.

**Galatians 5:22-25 (GEV) (22)** ...when we live God's way, here is what his Spirit does in us ,, he fills us full of love for God and others ,, he gives us an excitement about living ,, He gives us peace and brings calm to our mind ,, He leads us to be kind to others ,, our lives will be honorable and we will have a moral goodness ,, We will be faithful and loyal to our commitments and trustworthy ,, (23) We will be gentle, not forcing our way on others and we will demonstrate a tolerance towards others ,, We will exercise self-control, self-restraint, and a control over our desires ,, There are no laws against living in any of these ways ,, (24) Those who surrender their lives to God and strive to live for him give up living by their old selfish, self centered, sinful ways that they once had ,, (25) Since they have received a new life from God's Spirit that allow their conduct to be controlled by the Spirit and guided by the Spirit ,, they are being conformed day by day to the Holy Spirit's nature in every part of their life.

**Remember what Bill Dotson said? "God ought to be able to do anything" and if we are "perfectly willing to do anything necessary" we will find God and in finding God we will find ourselves.**

When we have found God and surrender our will and lives to God, he will work in miraculous ways in our lives. He will begin to help us grow in our faith and become more like him.

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (TLB)** As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.