

Step Twelve

"The Diamond Step"

STEP 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Introduction

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, how I thank my God daily for you all! I have prayed that we might get to this step together and be an encouragement to each other and a glorious blessing to our Heavenly Father. We have been instructed, loved, and equipped by God to cleanse ourselves of ugliness and pain of the past, and to lean on and trust in the Lord for every aspect of our lives. This is for our healing, and to fix our eyes on God's goal for us, that we would move from spiritual immaturity to Christ-likeness (Romans 8:29). God knew about each step we would take, our commitment, our persistence, and our dedication. All the time, He was right there to help us reach our highest potential and have victory. Romans 8:31 & 37, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." In Step 12 we need to learn how to share our story - just how the Lord has given us, if you will, a new lease on life, and cleared up the confusion, pain, and even shame. We can now see clearly, maybe for the first time. We have learned by obedience and trust just how much our Heavenly Father loves us unconditionally. Many of us did not experience unconditional love from our earthly fathers, so we had a hard time relating to our Heavenly Father. My beloved, it is my prayer that the inability to relate does not exist anymore, that the love of our Heavenly Father far out shadows any of the feelings of worthlessness we may have carried for too long. He just wants us to trust in Him, believe Him, and commit to His will. You can have joy greater than you ever thought possible and part of that joy starts right here with your story, and continues with God's story. As you share with a friend, family member or a stranger in the street - those who have no hope in them - and you take the time to share the love of Christ with them, you can be used by the Father to turn them from the darkness to the Light (Acts 26:18). Yes, from the pit of hell, to eternity where the glory of God is. The glory of God will be all the light that will be needed where they, along with you, will experience joy unfathomable. Oh, what a glorious plan, what a high calling, to have the Creator of all that exists call us into His service, to be part of His eternal plan. Praise His glorious name!

Yes, you and I are called to be soul winners. The Bible says, in Proverbs 11:30, "He that winneth souls is wise." Charles H. Spurgeon wrote, "If you are eager for real joy, such as you may think over and sleep upon, I am persuaded that no joy of growing wealthy, no joy of increasing knowledge, no joy of influence over your fellow creatures, no joy of any other sort, can ever compare with the rapture of saving a soul from death, and helping to restore your lost brothers and sisters to our great Father's house!"

Although it is clear in the word of God that not all are called to preach or teach, we are all given at least one spiritual gift. Each one of us has one or more gifts, and no one has them all, and that is precisely why the Body of Christ must work together. We must be one Body, working together with one major role and purpose: to lead the lost into the presence of Jesus Christ and His redemptive plan. Remember, God is not looking for your ability, but your availability, and He will give us everything we need to do the job He has for us to do. Yes, we need ALL the gifts - those who have gifts to share the word of God, and those who have gifts to lift up and encourage, and those who are "prayer warriors." Some have been blessed with finances and have the gift of giving, and they can help support a ministry financially. Running any ministry costs money, but it also needs administrators, people to do office work, writers, and even janitors. All are an essential part of soul-winning. Yes, if we are serious and committed to the Lord, He will give us a calling and all that we need to do the work He has called us to do. That is why we work the Steps, that we will have faced all of the past, present,

and stepped into the future fully equipped to deal with a world in darkness. If you think you can't do it, you are absolutely right - you cannot, apart from the Lord working through you when you completely trust in Him to do the work (John 15:4-7, Philippians 2:13). You can say with confidence "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Remember, His strength is made perfect in our weakness (II Corinthians 12:9). We must be walking in His glorious light in order to see clearly and be able to lead someone else down the path of righteousness and point them in the direction of Life Eternal. I John 5:13, "These things I have written unto you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

Friend, I would ask that you look and meditate on one word in particular from that last verse, the word "know." It says KNOW, not think, or hope, or dream that you might have eternal life, but that you KNOW, without a question of a doubt! God the Holy Spirit spoke it that we would believe it, so that we would live our lives rightly before God. One of the things that should be obvious by now, if you are a blood-washed child of God, is that what you have is so big a gift that at times it overwhelms the mind. It is my prayer that you are wanting to see the lost won to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I do hope that you have tasted of this honey of life. It must be the most glorious gift of all to know that the Creator of heaven and earth has chosen you and me as His special tools to carry out His eternal plan of the ages. Yes, beloved, to present a forgiving, loving, and LIVING Savior to a fallen world - a Savior who was beaten and bloodied for them, who died to pay for their sins, and who now lives forever! What a blessed task that through us the gospel can flow and lives can be made whole again - saved from the eternal flames of a Christless hell, to spend eternity in the presence of the Creator, not only of this earth, but the new earth that is yet to come. May our Lord bless us all as we set out to do His business. To God be the glory!

In His love and service,

Pastor Tom

Step 12 Review

"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Three points from Step 12 are clear:

1. We had a spiritual awakening, yes or no? The scriptures are clear concerning this - Jesus says in John 3:7, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" All true Christians (followers of Christ) are "born again." Our spiritual awakening is actually a new birth by the Spirit of God when we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

John 1:12-13 says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." The moment we trust in Jesus as our personal Savior, receiving Him into our heart by faith, we are "born again."

Romans 10:9-10 tells us, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, for with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."

We come to God as sinners (sin is "missing the mark", anything less than "a perfect bullseye") and we receive His righteousness, eternal life, and forgiveness for our sins,

as a gift from God. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) Have you received Jesus the Messiah as your personal Savior? If not, why not trust Him now?

2. What is the message that we are to carry to others? The word "gospel" means GOOD NEWS. The gospel or good news is this, ".....by this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles, and last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born." (I Corinthians 15:1-8, NIV).

This is the Good News, "That Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." (I Timothy 1:15) The message we are to carry is that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and is raised from the dead! He took our sins upon Himself, and we are a forgiven people! This is truly "Good News."

3. How do we practice these principles in all our affairs? The basic principles of Twelve Step Recovery came from the Bible, God's word. All principles for daily living can still be found in Scripture. Remember, James 1:22 says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Steve Weller, Founder of "Addicts for Christ"

"That one word (saved) is enough to make the heart dance as long as life remains. "Saved!" Let us hand out our banners and set the bells ringing. "Saved!" What a sweet sound it is to the man who is wrecked and sees the vessel going down, but at that moment discovers that the lifeboat is near and will rescue him from the sinking ship. To be snatched from the devouring fire, or saved from fierce disease, just when the turning point has come and death appears imminent. These are also occasions for crying, "Saved!" but to be rescued from sin and hell is a greater salvation still, and demands a larger joy. We will sing it in life and whisper it in death, and chant it throughout eternity - "Saved by the Lord!"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

"Go back to the birth of Jesus and the instruction of the angel: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). He is the Savior. That was His name from the Beginning. When you accept the name, you accept all that it implies in the person who is involved. Peter makes it clear, and I want to emphasize that when you come to Him, my friend, you come to Him for salvation. There is no other name under heaven that can save you. Religion can't save you. A ceremony can't save you. The name of Jesus can save you. Jesus is the name of that Person who came down to this earth to save His people from their sins. When any person comes to Him in faith, that person is saved. There is no other place to turn for salvation."

J. Vernon McGee

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

Congratulations!

Yes, my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, congratulations. Here we are at the end of the 12th Step of a Twelve Step Program. What has happened over the last year? Some of you have come to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and have been born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:3-7). Yes, adopted into the family of God as a child of the Living God (John 1:12), and now you are a Christian. Others came into the group as Christians. But no matter where you were when you started, if you will think about it, over the past months God has been moving in your life like never before. I am sure some healing and growth spiritually has taken place.

The goal of "Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries" is to bring you into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, so that He may heal you of any pain and lift you out of any negative situation you may find yourself in. Through the reading of His word, and communicating through prayer, the Lord can reveal to you just who you are and how much you mean to Him. God wants each one of us to use the spiritual gifts He has given to us (we all have at least one) now that we know Him as Lord of our life. Now we need to share with others who are hurting. We need to "carry the message" of the love of Jesus, and how He has given us hope, strength, and purpose in life, and how He has blessed us with the promise of eternal life. Oh, how blessed we are!

Do not be ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ, because in it you will find much power (Romans 1:16)! Yes, as you share your own story, faith, hope, and trust, you will be doing God's will. May God bless you! "He that winneth souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30) The time is short! Now is the time, today is the day of salvation!!!

"Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries" was given to Dottie and myself by God, that we would share His love and healing power with those hurting souls, whether saved or not. We will be happy to help you in any way we can in your outreach to others. Just call (310) 821-8677 - 24/7.

In His love and service,

Pastor Tom & Dottie Hooper
Founders/Directors of "Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries"