

Chapter One: **BILL'S STORY**

The main purpose of “Bill’s Story” is for identification. In “The Doctor’s Opinion”, we learned the exact nature of alcoholism. We learned that we are powerless because of the **allergic** reaction the alcoholic has to alcohol (the physical **craving** that comes *after* the first few drinks) and of the unmanageability resulting from a mind that denies the allergic reaction (the **mental obsession**).

In “Bill’s Story” we will be “12th Stepped” by Bill Wilson himself. We will see the progression of the disease in his life. As we study his story, we should look for the effect of drinking on Bill that we, too, have experienced. We can look at what happened to him and say to ourselves, “Yes, that happened to me, too” or “No, that hasn’t happened to me YET.”

As we study his story, we should ignore the differences; such as, he was from Vermont, he was a night school law student, he was a stockbroker, he was in the armed forces, etc. Instead, we should look only for the similarities of experience resulting from drinking.

If we look for the way Bill thinks, and the way Bill acts, and the way Bill drinks, then if we’re real alcoholics, there shouldn’t be any one of us who can’t identify with Bill.

So as we go through Bill’s Story, we’ll look for **identification**. We’ll look for the **progression** of drinking for fun, to drinking to function, then finally to drinking for the sickest reason of all, seeking complete oblivion.

Then we’ll see how Bill **recovered** from that hopeless state of mind, body and spirit. And, if we’ve identified with him, we’ll begin to believe that if he could do it, then maybe, just maybe, we could do it too. Identification – the beginning of belief, the beginning of hope.

We’ll see how Bill found hope as the result of a visit from his long-time friend, Ebby Thacher, who became Bill’s sponsor. Later, while in Towns Hospital, Ebby again visited Bill and helped him with the Plan of Action (the Steps) -- which resulted in Bill having a spiritual experience. After having that experience, he lived 36 years without ever taking another drink.

So, maybe, if we do what Bill did, we will get what Bill got! It’s worth a try!!!

