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10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of the ~~previous~~ ^{steps}, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

~~offered the simple but of spiritual tools but no comparison and~~
~~many of us~~ You may exclaim, "What an order! I can't go through with it." Do not be discouraged. No one among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not saints. The point is, that we are willing to grow along spiritual lines. The principles we have set down are guides to progress. We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after, ~~have been designed to sell you three pertinent ideas:~~ ^{make clear}

- (a) That ~~you~~ ^{with alcohol} alcoholic and ~~cannot~~ ^{could not} manage ~~his~~ ^{his} own life.
- (b) That probably no human power ~~can~~ ^{could} follow our alcoholism.
- (c) That ~~God can and will~~ ^{He can and will} ~~help~~ ^{help} ~~us~~ ^{us}.

If you are not convinced on these vital issues, you ought to re-read the book to this point or else throw it away!

If you are convinced, ~~you are now~~ ^{you are} at step three, which is that ~~you make a decision~~ ^{we decided} to turn ~~our will and our lives over~~ ^{our lives over} to God as ~~an~~ ^{an} understanding Him. Just what do we mean by that, and just what ~~we do~~ ^{we do}?

The first requirement is that ~~you~~ ^{we} that any life run on self-will ~~can~~ ^{could} hardly be a success. On that basis we are almost always in collision with something or somebody, even though our motives ~~are~~ ^{are} good. Most people try to live by self-propulsion. Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show: is forever trying to arrange the lights, the ballet, the scenery and the rest of the players in his own way. If his arrangements would only stay put, if only people would do as he wishes, the show would be great. Everybody, including himself, would be pleased. Life would be wonderful. In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-sacrificing. On the other hand, he may be mean, egotistical, selfish and dishonest. But, as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.

What usually happens? The show doesn't come off very well. He begins to think life doesn't treat him right. He decides to exert himself some more. He becomes, on the next occasion, still more demanding or gracious, as the case may be. Still the play does not suit him. Admitting he may be somewhat at fault, he is sure that other people are more to blame. He becomes angry, indignant, self-pitying. What is his basic trouble? Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be kind? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well? Is it not evident to all the rest of the players that these are the things he wants? And do not his actions make each of them wish to retaliate, snatching all they can get out of the show? Is he not, even in his best moments, a producer of confusion rather than harmony?

Our actor is self-centered -- ego-centric, as people like to call it nowadays. He is like the retired business man who lolls in the Florida sunshine in the winter