

WAYPOINT

Week 10 – Renouncing Sin - Points from the talk (6/1/22):

Step 6: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step 7: Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.

- **Bad will**

- *“If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened” (Psalm 66:18)*
- *“Beware... lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart’.” (Deuteronomy 29:17-19)*
- *“They did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.” (Jer 7:24)*

- **Good will**

- *“put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord” (Joshua 24:23)*
- *“I incline my heart to perform thy statutes forever, to the end.” (Psalm 119:112)*
- *“I will run in the way of thy commandments when thou enlargest my understanding!” (Psalm 119:32)*
- *“My servant Caleb... has a different spirit and has followed me fully.” (Numbers 14:24)*

- **Clinging to our sins**

- *“What we must recognize now is that we exult in some of our defects. We really love them.” (Twelve Steps/Traditions)*
 - Feeling superior, Greed, Lust, Self-righteous anger, Gossip, Envy, Sloth
- *“Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6)*

- **Humility**

- *“The attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.’s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility no alcoholic can stay sober at all.” (12 Steps/Traditions)*
- *“The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problems we could possibly have.” (12 Steps/Traditions)*

Week 10 - Discussion Questions:

1. Why do we cling to our sins?
2. What do we hope to gain from our sins?
3. What is the difference between Steps 4&5 and Steps 6&7? Confession VS Letting Go!
4. Why do some people believe these two steps are at the heart of all recovery programs and indeed the entire Christian Spiritual Life?
5. Can we think of people in our lives or in books, movies, tv, sports, or the entertainment world that are living examples of how difficult steps 6&7 truly are?

Closing Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.