

# WAYPOINT

## Week 2 - Powerlessness - Talking Points from Talk (3/14/2022)

- **Admission of defeat.**
  - In Salvation History
    - § Law, Prophets, Sacrifices, Wisdom
    - § Lev 26:19
      - *“I will break the pride of your power”*
    - § Dt 32:36
      - *“The Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone”*
  - In the experience of alcoholics
    - § *“Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness... The principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered... John Barleycorn himself had become our best advocate”* (12 Steps, 21-24)
- **Phenomenon of craving**
  - Temptation
    - § *“each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full grown brings forth death.”* (James 1:14-15)
- **Mental Blankspots**
  - *“Our so called will power becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago.”* (Big Book, 24)

- *“I saw that will power and self-knowledge would not help in those strange mental blank spots.”* (BB, More about Alcoholism, 42)
- Devil is doing pushups and waiting until we are set up like a bowling pin!
- **Feel the total helplessness when we are left to ourselves.**
  - People of Israel in Egypt before the Exodus Event.
    - § *“the people of Israel groaned under their bondage, and cried out for help, and their cry under bondage came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. And God saw the people of Israel, and God knew their condition.”* (Exodus 2:23-25)
  - Paralytic on the mat in the Gospel story.
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## **Week 2 - Discussion Questions:**

1. What struck you in the talk?
2. What keeps us from the admission of powerlessness?
3. When have I ever felt a sense of powerlessness over something or some situation and what did I learn from it?
4. Have I ever felt abandoned by God?