

# Alcoholics Anonymous Page 17

The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have found a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action.

*Parallel reference:*

"Once you had no identity as people; now you are God's people.  
Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

*-1 Peter 2:10 NLT*

A life with no identity is no life at all. Isolation has plagued us alcoholics. The delusion that we were a part of something has driven us to a life of loneliness, fair-weathered friends, destroyed families, and a hole so deep inside of us that nothing we could do or indulge in would fill it. Walking through the doors of A.A., we received God's mercy. We are on the path of healing. Surrounded by those who understand is a feeling of oneness that we have strived for our whole lives. Knowing others have recovered through a common solution gives us hope. Isolation is replaced with unity. Condemnation is replaced with mercy. We are a part of something good. The real cement that holds us together.

Consideration:

Have you found mercy in a common solution?

# Alcoholics Anonymous Page 24-25

These stark and ugly facts have been confirmed by legions of alcoholics throughout history. But for the grace of God, there would have been thousands more convincing demonstrations. So many want to stop but cannot.

*Parallel reference:*

So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

*-Hebrews 12:12-13 NLT*

God gives our tired hands a new grip. He strengthens our legs so we may walk tall once again. Through this, we are able to love ourselves and express love and kindness to those who need our help in recovery. We can truly carry a message. But for the grace of God, our program would have failed and faded away decades ago, and millions more would have suffered. What is God's grace? Undeserved favor. It is the greatest gift we have been given. We did nothing to deserve it and are not to boast about it. It is with us always and became apparent the moment we walked through the doors of A.A.. Wanting to stop but not being able to, has been the greatest example of God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Consideration:

How has the grace of God saved you from the pit of alcoholism and addiction?

# Alcoholics Anonymous Page 57

When we drew near to Him He disclosed Himself to us!

*Parallel reference:*

Come close to God and God will come close to you.  
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

*-James 4:8,10 NLT*

As we get to the end of our second step, we are left with this wonderful statement. Admitting powerlessness and coming to believe in a power greater than ourselves has been a lot. Now we are faced with the question of how do we get closer? The remainder of the steps is the answer. Through inventory, confession, restoration, prayer, and meditation, we can begin to be of service to others and practice this new way of life in all our affairs. This is what is meant by disclosing ourselves to Him. We begin to see who we really are. He will disclose himself to us in this process in the form of direction, inspiration, comfort, love, and peace. This is us coming close to God, humbling ourselves before Him through willingness to move forward one day at a time, and accepting that we are no longer the one in charge. Through this, He will lift us up in honor.

Consideration:

How has God disclosed Himself to you?

# Alcoholics Anonymous Page 83

We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

*Parallel reference:*

Fear not; you will no longer live in shame.

Don't be afraid; there is no more disgrace for you.

You will no longer remember the shame of your youth and the sorrows of widowhood.

*-Isaiah 54:4 NLT*

The freedom in the ninth step has given us a whole new attitude and outlook on life. The harms we saw in our inventory process have truly paved the way to joy. Trust in God here can free us from all the shame and guilt that has been weighing us down. The Bible is filled with promises. Surrender and action will give us results, and we can begin to realize these great truths in our lives. This idea of admitting our faults and making amends is not a step but a leap into a life of faith, where regret of our past, and fear of our future, are no longer driving forces in our lives. True reliance upon God begins here, and a new design for living opens the door to serenity and peace.

Consideration:

Are you willing to face all your past without regret?