

**Celebrate Recovery II: Earnestly Believe**  
October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Matthew 5:16**

**Eight Principles ...**

1. Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. ...
2. Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.
3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
4. Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.
5. Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask him to remove my character defects.
6. Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.
7. Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.<sup>1</sup>

**Principle Two:** Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover. *Hebrews 11:6*

*Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted"*

"The context indicates that these are mourning over sin and evil, especially their own..."<sup>1</sup>

❖ When we realize that the wrath of God is upon us because of our rebellion and sin against Him (*Ephesians 2:1-4*), we find ourselves in a hopeless condition and in need of help!

॥ Psalm 62:5-8

**Step 2:** We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

*Philippians 2:13 "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."*

॥ Psalm 40:1-3

**In the second step we find "Hope"**

**H**igher power "Our Higher Power is the one and only true Higher Power and He has a name: Jesus Christ...what you will find in Principle 2 is a personal relationship with Christ"<sup>2</sup>

*Romans 11:36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen."*

**Q**ueness to Change "We resist change because of our fear of the unknown."<sup>2</sup>

*Ephesians 4:22-23 "... put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,"*

**P**ower to Change "Power to change comes from God's grace."<sup>2</sup>

*John 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."*

**E**xpect to Change "Don't quit before the miracle happens!"<sup>2</sup>

*Philippians 1:6 "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

## **In the second step we are restored to “Sanity”**

“Insanity has been defined as ‘doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result each time.’”<sup>1</sup> *Malachi 2:13*

“Sanity has been defined as ‘wholeness of mind; making decisions based on the truth.’...Jesus is the only higher Power who offers the truth, the power, the way and the life.”<sup>2</sup> *John 14:6*

**S**trength “Choosing to allow my life to finally run on God’s power – not my own limited power, weakness, helplessness, or sense of inferiority – has turned out to be my greatest strength.”<sup>2</sup>

*Psalm 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

**A**cceptance “With acceptance comes responsibility. We stop placing all the blame on others for our past actions and hurts.”<sup>2</sup>

*Romans 15:7 “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*

**N**ew Life “When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!”<sup>2</sup> *2 Corinthians 5:17*

*2 Corinthians 1:9 “Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”*

**I**ntegrity “We gain integrity as we begin to follow through on our promises. Others start trusting what we say.”<sup>2</sup>

*3 John 4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”*

**T**rust “As we work Step 2, we begin to trust in our relationships with others and our Higher Power [Jesus].”<sup>2</sup>

*Proverbs 29:25 “... but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.”*

**Y**our Higher Power “YOUR higher power, Jesus Christ, loves you just the way you are! No matter what comes your way, together you and God can handle it!”<sup>2</sup> *1 Corinthians 10:13*

*Psalm 68:19 “Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.”*

### *Psalm 40:2-3*

*“He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”*

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Baker, John. *Celebrate Recovery: Leader's Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012. Print.

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