

WAYPOINT

Week 6 - Surrender - Points from the talk (4/13/22):

Step Three: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him”

- **Flesh → Spirit**
 - **Flesh**
 - Control = *contra* + *rotare* → against rolling, to restrain or constrain, limit, suppress or repress.
 - No grip, no traction, spinning our wheels
 - Romans 7:18-19
 - *“I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.”*
 - **Spirit**
 - Our wheels hook up, bite into the road, gain traction
 - Romans 8:13
 - *“if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.”*
 - Big Book
 - *“He made the point-blank declaration that God had done for him what he could not do for himself... he had admitted complete defeat... He was on a different footing. His roots grasped a new soil.”* (Bill’s Story, 11-12)
 - Exodus 14:14
 - *“The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still.”*
 - Isaiah 30:15-16
 - *“For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, ‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.’ And you would not, but you said, ‘No! we will speed upon horses...’ therefore your pursuers shall be swift”*
 - St. Augustine
 - *“Why do you stand upon yourself and so not stand at all? Cast yourself upon him and be not afraid; He will not draw away and let you fall. Cast yourself without fear. He will receive you and heal you.”* (Confessions, Book 8, chapter 11)
 - ‘Castaway’ movie analogy

- Big Book
 - “We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame... We will see that our new attitude towards liquor has been given to us without any effort on our part. It just comes! That is the miracle of it. We are not fighting it... the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us. We are neither cocky nor are we afraid. That is our experience. That is how we react as long as we remain in fit spiritual condition... We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have a daily reprieve contingent upon the maintenance of our spiritual condition” (BB, Into Action, 84-85)

- **Our moral life flows from our spiritual life**
 - Psalm 60:11-12
 - “O grant us help against the foe, for vain is the help of man! With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.”
 - Synergy!
 - Phil 2:12-13
 - “work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”
 - Eph 3:20
 - “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than we ask or think...”
 - Big Book
 - “All went well for a time, but he failed to enlarge his spiritual life. To his consternation, he found himself drunk half a dozen times in rapid succession.” (More about Alcoholism, 35)

Week 6 - Discussion Questions:

1. When have we ever experienced ‘spinning our wheels’ in some area of our lives that was due in large part to our own self-reliance or living in the ‘flesh’?
2. Is there a part of us that is repulsed by the whole idea of ‘surrender’? If so, why?
3. When have we ever become aware of the power of God working in us?
4. Have we experienced a decline of moral progress when we neglect our spiritual life?
5. Do we really trust God? If not, why not?

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.