

April 6, 2011 “What good is God when we struggle with addiction?” Pastor Tim Smith Yancey, Chapters 18 and 19; Romans 7 & 8

These are the original Twelve Steps as published by Alcoholics Anonymous:

1. We admitted we were [powerless](#) over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a [Power](#) greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of [God](#) *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of [character](#).
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make [amends](#) to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through [prayer](#) and [meditation](#) to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

p. 229 Yancey: Are our first thoughts always (usually) wrong?

p. 233 Grace-based AA: not so absolute, yet plenty of accountability...how does this mirror our justification (grace-based) and sanctification (discipleship) understanding as Lutherans? Lutherans aren't against works; in fact, we're all *for* them, but only as a part of our accountability to God, response to God's grace and utter dependence on God.

See quote from *Spirit of Imperfection*, page 234 in Yancey, on works without faith

pp. 235-236: The two BIG steps: Honesty, dependence. Compare to our confession of sins. Former Bishop Menees on why he's a Christian: “Because it's the story that unfolds me most completely for who I truly am, and yet gives me hope.”

p. 236 Hypocrites, i.e., “together” people in church. Dr. Charles Rice's prediction that when Messiah comes again a likely place to show up would be an AA meeting

p. 240 (show Luther poster), “This life is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness.” Addicts never recovered, but recovering....PROCESS in this life

p. 245: First Thoughts and Romans 7 & 8; p. 246 Disease vs. Choice....or both?