

# BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF THE 12 STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND CELEBRATE RECOVERY

	12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous	12 Steps of Celebrate Recovery	CONFLICTS WITH BIBLICAL TRUTH	
			AA	CR
1	We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.	We admitted we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable. (Romans 7:18 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Left as a victim</li> <li>» Not responsibility for actions</li> <li>» Insanity is the result</li> <li>» No understanding of sin or the need for a Savior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sin is the problem, not addiction, behaviors, or habits (Romans 3:23)</li> <li>» He is faithful to forgive and cleanse all sins (1 John 1:9)</li> <li>» Life is unmanageable on our own, but through faith we are united with Christ, he is our strength (John 15:5)</li> <li>» The Holy Spirit gives power to believers to overcome sin: addictions and "compulsive behavior" included (Romans 6:6-7)</li> <li>» No longer enslaved to sin (Romans 6:12-14)</li> </ul>
2	Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.	We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. (Philippians 2:13 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» A god created by man, an idol - no truth can come from a faulty starting point</li> <li>» Truth is objective</li> <li>» Changing definitions, no absolute truth</li> <li>» Restoration to sanity / sobriety is goal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Salvation from sin is the goal, not sanity (Romans 3:11-12,23)</li> <li>» Salvation comes through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8-9)</li> <li>» Upon justification, we are reconciled to God through faith in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)</li> <li>» Justification brings peace with God (Romans 5:1)</li> <li>» By Christ's sacrifice, we are healed from sin (Isaiah 53:5)</li> </ul>
3	Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.	We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God. (Romans 12:1 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Man is in charge</li> <li>» Man chooses God, therefore is his own god</li> <li>» Man is basically good</li> <li>» Prays for God's will, but has no understanding of what God's will is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» God calls and saves us (Ephesians 1:4-5, John 15:16)</li> <li>» Because of his mercy and grace we belong to him (1 Peter 1:3)</li> <li>» The gospel has the power to save and convict (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)</li> <li>» While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)</li> <li>» He has delivered us (Colossians 1:13-14)</li> </ul>
4	Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.	We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. (Lamentations 3:40 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Unable to make an accurate assessment of self - our hearts are desperately wicked</li> <li>» Without a knowledge of God' standards, morality is subjective to our own judgment</li> <li>» Inventory of right and wrong can change frequently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» God knows us and our thoughts, reveals our sin (Psalm 139:23-24)</li> <li>» Our hearts are "deceitful and desperately wicked," we should evaluate and not trust our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9)</li> <li>» Morality is based on God's truth (Matthew 7:24-25)</li> <li>» The gospel is the backdrop (1 Peter 1:1-9)</li> </ul>
5	Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.	We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. (James 5:16a NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Without a correct definition of right and wrong, accurate assessment is impossible</li> <li>» The concept of ""our own truth""</li> <li>» God is beholden to what we determine is right and wrong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Our sin is against God first (Psalm 51)</li> <li>» Repentance and faith in Christ is the response to sin (Mark 1:15)</li> <li>» God's Word is the standard, not subjective (2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12)</li> <li>» Confess sins to God (Psalm 32:5)</li> </ul>
6	Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.	We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. (James 4:10 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Asking a god of your own making to remove something is folly to God</li> <li>» Isaiah 44:9-20 describes this in detail</li> <li>» We are all defected, born into sin from the beginning, and in need of a Savior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sorrow for sin, desire to change flows from repentance (Psalm 38:18)</li> <li>» Conviction of sin (Acts 2:37, Romans 2:4)</li> <li>» Godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10)</li> </ul>
7	Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.	We humbly asked Him to remove all of our shortcomings. (1 John 1:9 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Humility is needed to see the need for help outside yourself - but a god created by you... is you</li> <li>» No personal responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sanctification, working together with God to accomplish his will for our lives (Philippians 2:12-13)</li> <li>» Transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2)</li> <li>» Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20)</li> <li>» He will complete the work in us (Philippians 1:6)</li> </ul>
8	Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.	We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all. (Luke 6:31 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Self focused, guilt driven</li> <li>» Aims to relieve guilt</li> <li>» Places weight on the recipient in order to relieve self, rather than placing weight of guilt on Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Restoring relationships comes after we receive forgiveness from God (2 Corinthians 5:19)</li> <li>» Reconciliation comes from a humble heart (1 Peter 5:6)</li> <li>» Envy, anger, and resentment are resolved by honoring Christ ( James 3:13-17)</li> </ul>
9	Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.	We made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. (Matthew 5:23-24 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Making amends with others is good, but limited without a proper understanding of forgiveness found only in Jesus</li> <li>» Reconciliation is only possible through Christ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)</li> <li>» Consider others more important (Philippians 2:3-8)</li> <li>» Forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us (Colossians 3:13)</li> </ul>
10	Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.	We continue to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it. (1 Corinthians 10:12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Same as step 4</li> <li>» Admitting wrong doing is good, but there is no power to change outside of Christ</li> <li>» Patterns of behavior modification continue without repentance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Not living according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (1 Peter 1:14-15)</li> <li>» Practice these things (Philippians 4:9)</li> <li>» The power to live through our knowledge of him (2 Peter 1:3-4)</li> <li>» Walk in him (Colossians 2:6-8)</li> <li>» Live upright (Titus 2:11-14)</li> <li>» Bear fruit of repentance (Matthew 3:8)</li> </ul>
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.	We sought through prayer and meditation to improve out conscious contact with God, praying only for His will for us, and power to carry that out. (Colossians 3:16a NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It is impossible to know the will of God outside of a personal relationship with him</li> <li>» God hears the cries of his children</li> <li>» Meditation in this sense empties the mind, instead of filling it with God's word</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» All prayers, petitions and laments are welcomed, make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7, Psalms)</li> <li>» We can cry out to our Father (Romans 8:14-17)</li> <li>» He hears our cries (Psalm 3:3-4)</li> <li>» Scripture defines how we are to live, our purpose is to glorify God (Colossians 3:17)</li> <li>» God's will for us is sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3)</li> </ul>
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.	Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs. (Galatians 6:1 NIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Sobriety is highest priority</li> <li>» Credits the steps for all basis of change</li> <li>» Not freedom, bound to the steps and meetings forever</li> <li>» Does an excellent job to create community and helping others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Being justified by faith in Jesus, we are ambassadors for God (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)</li> <li>» Change happens as hearts and desires are transformed (2 Corinthians 5:17, Psalm 51)</li> <li>» We are called to be a part of a local church community, living life together (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 3:13)</li> </ul>