

STEP 3 : Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

What does Step three mean? Well, we're going to **make a decision**, that's part of it. To do what? To turn over our will and lives --- and what is that? Our will is our thinking, and our life is our actions. We're going to make a decision to turn our thoughts and our actions over to the care (and direction) of God, as we understand him.

**Our will is the collection of our thoughts
Our life is the collection of our actions**

We're going to make a decision to let God direct our **thinking** and our **actions** in Step three. We haven't actually done that yet, but we're getting willing to do that.

We don't actually turn *anything* over to God in Step three --- We make a decision to do something in Step three --- THAT'S ALL!!! The "turning it over to God" is the result of the **actions** of the **fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth steps!** If I sit here and tell you "I've **decided** to go to New York" -- and all I do is continue to sit here -- can I tell you of my experience(s) in New York? Of course not. I must **DO** something -- take some **action** (get in the car, put gas in the car, drive down the road, etc.). And when I've done that, and the **result** of those **actions** is that I've actually arrived in New York -- that's when I can begin to tell you about it, *not before*.

"I'm making a decision to turn my **thinking apparatus** over to the care and direction of God as I understand him. What else am I deciding to turn over? Well I'm deciding to turn my **life** over to the care and direction of God as I understand him. And what is my life? My life is nothing more than my actions. What I am right now, as of this moment, is a sum accumulated total of all the actions that I've taken throughout my entire lifetime. That has made me what I am today.

"Since all action is born in thought --- then it stands to reason my life is going to be determined by how I think. If my thinking is okay, chances are my actions will be okay and then the chances are my life's going to be okay too. If my thinking is lousy, chances are the actions I take will be lousy and chances are I'm going to have a fouled up life too." (Charlie Parmley, Laughlin, Nevada, August 1998)

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"God, I offer myself to Thee - to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!" (p.63:2)

Did you make this offer/decision? *If you have, you're through with Step Three and should immediately implement Step Four because: "our decision ... could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us."* (P.64:0)

THOUGHTS → ACTIONS

Our lives were centered on the relentless pursuit of our own selfish desires. So, as the result of our self-centered thoughts (“*a life run on self will*” pg. 60:4).....



...we were always “*in collision with something or somebody*” (pg. 60:4)....



...and when we “*step on the toes of our fellows*” (pg. 62:1)....



“*they retaliate.*” (pg. 62:1)



We then became *angry, fearful* or *acted in a harmful* manner (= we became *resentful*)...



...And then *we generally drank/used* --- which was the resultant **ACTION** of our self-centered **THOUGHTS**: “*Selfishness --- self-centeredness. That, we think, is the root of our problems.*” (pg. 62:1)