

STEP 4 : Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves

Searching = “Fact Finding” (64:1)

Fearless = “Fact Facing” (64:1)

Moral = Truth (Things as they really are; the right and wrong of any given situation: the truth about things)

Inventory = (An itemized) “list” (64:3)

So what we’re being asked to do in the fourth step is not to tell (or write) our life story --- that’s the fifth step (“*We have a written inventory and we are prepared for a long talk*” p. 75:1) What we’re being instructed to do is find and face the truths about ourselves in an itemized list format.

“...the main problem of the alcoholic centers in the mind...” (p. 23:1)

We’re going to look inside ourselves, into our minds to find those flawed thinking processes, those defective thoughts, those “*damaged and unsalable goods*” (p. 64:3) that block us off from God.

If we’ve made a decision to let God direct us, we have to find the things that block His path.

“ 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)

“The flawed thinking processes in our mind that blocks God out are our resentments, fears and the guilt, shame and remorse associated with the harms done to other people. And as long as our mind is occupied with those thoughts, then God’s thoughts can’t come in. It’s just that simple.” (Charley Parmley, Laughlin, Nevada, August 1998)

STEP 4
INVENTORY COMPARISON

BUSINESS

PERSONAL

FACT-FINDING	<->	SEARCHING
FACT-FACING	<->	FEARLESS
TRUTH	<->	MORAL
STOCK-IN-TRADE	<->	OURSELVES

OBJECT:

DISCLOSE	FIND FLAWED
DAMAGED OR	<-> THINKING
UNSATABLE	PROCESSES
GOODS	

GET RID OF	GET RID OF
THEM PROMPTLY	THEM PROMPTLY
WITHOUT REGRET!	WITHOUT REGRET!

STOCK IN 'TRADE	1. ANGERS
THAT IS	<-> 2. FEARS
DAMAGED or	3. HARMS Done
UNSATABLE	To Others