

“Practicing These Principles” :
To Wives (Chapter 8) & The Family Afterward (Chapter 9)

We’ve already established that the 12th Step is made of three parts:

THE PROMISE == *Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps*
THE CHARGE == *we tried to carry this message to alcoholics*
THE CHALLENGE == *and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

Chapter Seven (*Working With Others*) is based on the assumption that we have had a Spiritual Awakening as the result of working the first 11 steps. This was accomplished by following the “*clear cut directions*” (pg. 29:3) laid out in *Dr.’s Opinion* and Chapters One through Six.

So, having realized the ***Promise*** of the first part of Step 12, we are ***Charged*** with a responsibility to carry that message in the second part of the step, and are given our marching orders in Chapter Seven.

Where then, do we find the instructions for meeting the ***Challenge*** of the third part of the step?

Well, we believe the book is written in a particular sequence to guide us from one step to another, “*which the process requires for it’s successful consummation*” (pg. 25:6), which of course is, a Spiritual Awakening. Accordingly, “*practicing these principles*” ***MUST*** be covered somewhere after Chapter Seven.

But those chapters are directed to Wives, the Family and Employers - so it cannot be contained in those - or can it?

That’s the question we set out to answer by studying those chapters with the mind-set of finding the directions for how to “*practice these principles in all my affairs.*” Since showing “*other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book*”, (Pg. xiii:4-6) we knew it had to be there somewhere. The “*design for living*” (Pg. 15:17) just would not be complete without it!

And, lo and behold, Bill Wilson was true to form. Because ***these principles of success are indeed very much covered*** in these sections. But, it requires “***careful reading***” (pg. 567:3).

So, we will now set out to carefully comb through these chapters to extract Bill’s advice for how to practice these principles. If you come upon some “*pearl of wisdom*” which we miss in our review, please pass it on (send to: thebigbookstudy@aol.com).