

THE 12 STEPS: BIBLICAL DISCIPLINES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH

PEACEFUL LIVING	COMES FROM ACTING ON BASIC BIBLICAL TRUTHS		STRUCTURED INTO A PROGRAM FOR DAILY LIFE
<i>Living at Peace With God</i>	1	Step 1 – is about recognizing our brokenness. <i>"For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."</i> Romans 7:17	1. We admitted we were powerless over "____" that our lives had become unmanageable.
	2	Step 2 – is about the birth of faith in us. <i>"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."</i> Matthew 17:20.	2. Came to believe that God as we understood Him could restore us to sanity.
	3	Step 3 – involves a decision to let God be in charge of our lives. <i>"If anyone chooses to do the will of God, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God."</i> John 7:17.	3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
<i>Living at Peace With Our Selves</i>	4	Step 4 – involves self-examination. <i>"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord"</i> Lamentations 3:40.	4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
	5	Step 5 – is the discipline of confession. <i>"Therefore confess you sins to each other and pray for each other so that you maybe healed."</i> James 5:16.	5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
	6	Step 6 – is a inner transformation sometimes called repentance. <i>"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."</i> James 4:10	6. Became ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
	7	Step 7 – involves the transformation of "purification" of our character. <i>"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."</i> I John 1:9.	7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
<i>Living in Peace With Others</i>	8	Step 8 – involves examining our relationships and preparing ourselves to make amends, <i>"For a man's ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths."</i> Proverbs 5:21	8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
	9	Step 9 – is the discipline of making amends. <i>"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to your brother, then come and offer your gift."</i> Matthew 5:23,24.	9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
	10	Step 10 – is about growing grace-full relationships. <i>"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you."</i> Philippians 2:12.	10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong admitted it.
<i>Growing in Peace</i>	11	Step 11 – involves the spiritual disciplines of prayer and meditation. <i>"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray."</i> James 5:13. <i>"Blessed is the man who... (delights) in the law of the Lord, and on His law meditates day and night."</i> Psalm 1:1,2.	11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
	12	Step 12 – is about ministry. <i>"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."</i> Galatians 6:1.	12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in our lives.