



WALKING WITH GOD'S WILL

Written by Mike W—Holder Way of Life Group

One of my constant goals in recovery is trying to learn the difference between my will and God's will. Sometimes it's easy. If it doesn't feel right, probably not God's will. If I have an internal debate about it, probably not God's will. If it's a tie, probably not God's will. (Doesn't mean I don't do it; just means I know whatever I'm up to isn't God's will.)

Sometimes it's not so easy. Is that God calling me, or am I dreaming? That's where Step 11 really comes in: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve my conscience contact with God as I understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for me and the power to carry that out. On occasion, God's will and my will have walked hand in hand. This special story illustrates that.

I was reading a book one night last summer about faith. In it, the writer suggested that if there's someone in your life that you're just not sure about from a belief-in-God standpoint, it's your duty to do something about it. I immediately thought of my dad, who lives in the Detroit area with my four sisters, one brother and a host of nieces, nephews, grandkids and the like. My dad, whose 91st birthday is March 7 (I'll be spending that day with him), is a sweet, sweet man. My mother died many years ago, and Dad has kept the family together. I'm the only one living far away.

As an active drunk, I kept that distance between Florida and Michigan as an excuse to stay away. Sure, I'd visit on occasion for the holidays, but drank most of the time and really don't remember much about those visits at all. My dad rarely criticized me, though I knew I was hurting him.

When I came into AA and told my dad I was an alcoholic, he said it couldn't be so. "You haven't had a DWI," he protested. I assured him it was the truth. I tried to explain sobriety to him, but I barely understood it myself. When I called Dad with the exciting news that I'd just gotten a 30-day chip and was feel-

ing great, he said, "Well, it's early yet." He wasn't being mean. It was a joke and I laughed.

Anyway, I was reading this book just a few weeks before Father's Day. I decided to fly to Michigan to surprise him on Father's Day and would return the same day. I figured I'd get three hours with the family, and then zip on back to Florida. Some may think that's strange but don't forget the purpose of the trip: Talk to Dad about God. You have to realize how unusual this would be. We just didn't discuss God in our family. I grew up going to church, but that's where God stayed, at least most of the time.

The morning of my flight, I had just about convinced myself this conversation would not take place. I only had a few hours, and the house would be buzzing with activity. So I said the Serenity

Prayer and asked for courage. I also gave the whole thing over to God. It was His idea anyway, I reasoned. I wasn't going to push it.

The visit with the family went great. Dad was sure surprised! We were sitting around the kitchen table when one of my sisters asked about

my social life. I mumbled something about putting all that in God's hands, when my dad said, "That's what your mother would always say. Let God take care of those things."

I looked at him. "Dad," I said, "are you OK with God?"

He gave me a sad smile. "No, not really," he said. "It's been up and down over the years. Probably too late now." "No, Dad!" I said. "It's never too late." The kitchen was getting crowded so I dropped it.

The time soon came for me to leave. Dad walked me to my rental car parked in the street. Because he's my dad, he stashed some cash in my shirt pocket. I saw one last opening.

"Dad," I told him, "God did this to me. God made me sober. God gave me a reason to live. Everything I have today, I

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None of this happens without AA

THE HIGH NOON GROUP
INVITES EVERYONE
TO COME JOIN US
FOR OUR ANNUAL
EASTER SUNDY DINNER

Where: St. Benedict's Church

Time: 2mp-5pm

Menu: Turkey and Ham

(YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING A
SIDE DISH IF YOU CHOOSE)

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

CHANGE IS IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Wednesday Night Step Study
Time Change

Beginning April 8, 2009

Study Will Begin At 7:30p.m.

Our Lady Of Fatima

Catholic Church, Inverness

May 2, 2009

10:00 am—???

Life Goes On Group Annual Picnic

Crews Park Shady Hills Road

Bring a dish to share

No Name Group

needs your help for the
meeting to continue.

**Chassahowitzka
Fire Department**

Wednesdays at 7pm

COCOA BEACH 19th SPRING CONVENTION

April 30th to May 3rd

Holiday Inn Ocean Front

Reserve by March 31st

Cocoa Beach, FL

The Woodstock of AA

See complete flyer on web site

Why Worry?

*"There are many short phrases
and expressions in AA which
make sound sense.*

'First Things First': Solving
our immediate problems before
we try to solve all the others . . .

'Easy Does it.' Relax a little.
Try for inner contentment. No
one individual can carry all the
burdens of the world. Everyone
has problems. Getting drunk
won't solve them.

'Twenty-four hours a day.'

Today is the day. Doing our
best, living each day to the full-
est is the art of living. Yesterday
is gone, and we don't know
whether we will be here tomor-
row. If we do a good job of living
today, and if tomorrow comes for
us, then the chances are we will
do a good job when it arrives so
why worry about it?"

1976 AAWS, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 382

Fallible

Seven of our Twelve Steps state unequivocally that I have been, am, and will be wrong. I have shortcomings and defects of character. I never have been and never will be perfect. As that realization became a part of me-- and it took time -- it brought me one of the greatest of many blessings that have come to me from AA. I learned to accept myself as a fallible human being.

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Area Events

Area Assemblies 2009

April 3-5

July 17-19

October 8-10

Paramount Resort and
Conference Center
Gainesville, FL

Hotel: **352-377-4000**

30 day cut-off at the hotel. Make
reservations early.

Info: **877-992-9229**

10th Annual

Spring Into Sobriety
Women's Conference

April 17, 18, & 19, 2009

Venice, Florida

Founders' Day

Florida Style

www.foundersdayflorida.org

June 5th—7th

Tallahassee, FL

www.foundersdayflorida.org

Details on our web site

July 29th—Aug 2nd

53rd Florida State Convention

See web site for flyer

Sept 11-13, 2009

10th Annual Serenity Weekend Women's Fall Conference 2009

Coca Beach, FL

See web site for flyer

NOTICE

Proposed By-Law Change:
**"Officers and Trustees
CAN NOT be an Inter-
group Representative"**

*Please vote at your next
business meeting and have
Intergroup Rep bring the
vote to the April meeting.*

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have because I've turned my life over to God. Everything!"

He smiled again, a little brighter. "So you think maybe it's time that I got onboard then?" "Yeah Dad," I whispered. "I really do." "OK," he said. "I will."

We hugged and I kissed him on the cheek. I got into my rental and drove off, watching my dad in the rearview mirror. As I drove toward the airport, tears watered my eyes as I heard a Voice whisper, "Well done. Well done."

Dad and I don't talk about that day. I mean, what is there to say? It's not like I'm going to call him every week and ask, "So Dad, still got that God thing going?" Really, it's not necessary. I told an AA friend about my visit and she said the last thing my dad thought about on Father's Day before falling to sleep was that his son flew from Florida just to tell him about God.

None of this happens without AA. It's only because I'm sober that I'm able to seek a conscience contact with God. I don't always do His will and I sometimes rush past His will to grab mine, but I know today that it's possible for both to align. I know today that because of the life I've found in Alcoholic Anonymous, and the ability to pray to a God of my understanding, that I am filled with His awesome grace and mercy. I know that. And now my dad knows it too.

Write your story or article related to Alcoholism and send it to:
news@ncintergroup.com

"A God defined - is a God confined."

Long before recovery, and even many years into it, I had a need to understand who and what God was. I was sure that if I was "good" and acted the way I thought God wanted me to act, then I could control Him, and ultimately I would get what I wanted. I didn't know it then, but what I was trying to do was impose my will on God and make it seem like it was His will. As you can imagine, this never worked out. The harder I tried to control people, places and things, presuming God's will was in alignment with mine, the more uncontrollable my

life became, and the more I began to resent others, myself and God. It took many years for me to truly surrender my will and my life to God, but once I did I discovered a faith that went beyond understanding. Today my faith confirms that God's will is infinitely better for me and others than I could ever imagine. By constantly affirming, "Thy will, not mine be done," I enjoy the freedom that comes from surrendering to the power and love of God. Today God is no longer confined by my need to define Him, and as a result I get to be a witness to His miracles as they unfold around me.

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Michael Z*

The Law of Substitution

You cannot, NOT think of something. You can only *substitute* one thought for another. Our brains only have the capacity to think. If I say, "don't think about the high price of gas", what are you thinking about? Now try not thinking of the gas prices. Can't be done. Change your focus to your grocery list and the thought of high gas prices goes away.

The only way to move away from

RECOVERED (from the dictionary)

1. To get back or regain (something lost or taken away)
2. To make up for or make good (loss, damage, etc., to oneself).
3. To regain the strength, composure, balance, or the like, of oneself.

negative thinking is to think positive. All character defects are changed by *practicing* the opposite. You can not stop lying; you can only practice telling the truth. When you practice the opposite of the defect, the defect simply goes away. The more you practice the longer it will stay away.

This is a universal law and cannot be broken.

by John L. Last Chance Group

Father Martin, national leader in alcoholism treatment, dies at age 84



The Rev. Joseph C. Martin, a recovering alcoholic died March 9, 2009 from heart disease at his home.

Group Contributions

Group Name	March	YTD
New Beginnings		\$100.00
Bright Spots		\$5.00
Keep In Step		\$40.00
Nite Cap Group		\$5.00
WonRebos Group		\$54.00
Share At Noon		\$50.00
Never To Early		\$40.00
Inverness Friday		\$80.00
Inverness Wed	\$30.00	\$30.00
Rainbow Group	\$240.00	\$340.00
Holder Way Of Life.....		\$100.00
Monday Night Men's .	\$100.00	\$100.00
Women To Women	\$40.00	\$40.00
Inverness Wednesday		\$30.00
Big Book 164.....	\$45	\$45.00

ANNIVERSARIES:

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday following Intergroup meeting

Floral City Men's Group

Bruce B. 11

Holder Way of Life

Lori C..... 5

Monday Nite Men's Group

Kevin H..... 25

Rich C..... 25

Frank H..... 22

Rainbow Group

Mike S..... 3

Ted L..... 4

Donna L..... 19

Sue Ann..... 19

Brian P..... 2

Kate J..... 1

Share At Noon

Phil G..... 2

Women's Friendship Group

Liz R..... 18

Gloria D..... 25

Pat O'B..... 27

LuAnne D..... 32

Women's New Beginnings

Nancy M (Jan)..... 5

Stacy D (Feb)..... 9

Toni T (Mar)..... 18

Shirley M (Mar)..... 27

Intergroup Hotline Report

Kurt's March Hotline Report:

AA42

Alanon6

Detox Sponsors.....3

Outside District.....16

NA4

Wet Drunk13

Students2

INTERGROUP OFFICE/BOOKSTORE

111 W. MAIN ST.

Rm 305

INVERNESS, FL 34450

352-344-0290

OPEN: MON, WED, FRI 10AM-4PM SAT CLOSED

Store volunteers for March: Dave D.

Holder Way of Life—Nanci R. Women to

Women—Rich G. Keep in Step—Mike S.

Floral City Men's—Don P. Share at

Noon—Mel L. High Noon

It was voted by the Intergroup representatives to lower the prices at the store on non-conference inventory. Things like medallions, jeweler, bumper stickers, gifts, books (Twenty Four Hour, Little Red Book etc) will be reduced by 25% to 40%. Stop in and see what is available.



Intergroup Events Coordinator Sandy H is looking for committee members for upcoming events. If your interested in helping make Citrus County AA the best in Florida, give Sandy a call: 352-623-3981 OR

HELANDY123@YAHOO.COM

INTERGROUP TREASURER'S position is still open. Requirements are two years continuous sobriety, some experience with handling money, making deposits, balancing the checkbook, paying bills etc. We use Quick Books software which will be provided along with training. This position is for two years. It involves 5 to 8 hours a month. If interested contact Jim Z Intergroup Chair.

BUSINESS MEETING

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 4:30PM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN HOLDER.

DISTRICT 28

MONTHLY MEETING TO FOLLOW INTERGROUP

INTERGROUP

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SECT—JULIE P

TREAS—OPEN

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DISTRICT 28

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DCM—SUE ANN A

ALT DCM—HANS N

SECT—PAT H

TREAS—PAULA D

JOURNALS FOR GROUPS

CAN BE PICKED UP AT:

BOOKSTORE

EAST COUNTY

FRIDAY BEGINNER'S

MEETING 6:30 PM

WEST COUNTY

SERENITY CLUB

JOURNAL IS ALSO

POSTED ON WEBSITE

www.ncintergroup.com

DISCLAIMER: The Nature Coast Journal is a monthly publication of the Nature Coast Intergroup. It is about, by and for members of AA. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. Publication of an article does not imply endorsement by either AA or Nature Coast Journal, except where indicated.