



THE 12 STEPS – A CLASSIC MODEL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The 12-Step process is an experience of being changed by a loving, supportive God who knows what we need and helps us through our pain to see and give up our own selfish agendas and surrender to His. The 12-Steps offer a structure of discipline to become holy and whole. Our task is to remove the self-imposed blocks or character defects that stand between God and us. We do this so we can be awakened, meet God personally with our own true selves, and do his will. The 12-Steps are like scaffolding that allows the “spiritual house” of our personal life to be built. This study of the 12-Steps will be an amazing spiritual adventure. Act like a man!

A Man will make amends to all and seek to reconcile when possible.

The 12 Steps – Step 9
Reconcile When Possible!

May 3, 2018
Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Bible Verses: Isaiah 58:12; Matthew 5:23,24; Leviticus 19:17,18

Music: Vince Gill - I Still Believe In You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbERBUR5h18>

Video: YouTube-Lance Armstrong, Bill Clinton and More Famous Apologies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKdSsofX-eo>

Resources: Book: *A Hunger for Healing—The Twelve Steps as a Classic Model for Christian Spiritual Growth* by J. Keith Miller

Book: *The Life Recovery Journey—Inspiring Stories and Biblical Wisdom as You Work the Twelve Steps and Let Them Work You* by Stephen Arterburn & David Stoop

Book: *The Twelve Steps—A Spiritual Journey—A Working Guide for Healing Damaged Emotions* by RPI Publishing

The Twelve Steps & Spiritual Disciplines

Goal:	Discipline:	Goal:	Discipline:
1. Peace with God	1. Submission (Rom 7:17)	7. Peace with Ourselves	7. Repentance (I John 1:9)
2. Peace with God	2. Conversion (Phil 2:13)	8. Peace with Others	8. Amends (Luke 6:31)
3. Peace with God	3. Conversion (Rom 12:1)	9. Peace with Others	9. Amends (Matt 5:23,24)
4. Peace with Ourselves	4. Confession (Lam 3:20)	10. Peace with Others	10. Maintenance (I Cor 10:12)
5. Peace with Ourselves	5. Confession (James 5:16)	11. Keeping the Peace	11. Prayer (Col 3:16)
6. Peace with Ourselves	6. Repentance (James 4:10)	12. Keeping the Peace	12. Ministry (Gal 6:1)

The 12 Steps > Step 9: The Process of Reconciliation.

1. _____ > Being a Christian does not “require” that you make amends, but unless you take the risk of being rejected and make amends, you do not become reconciled with those you have harmed. You are blocked not only from relating to those persons but also from worshipping God. Jesus said, “Go!”
2. _____ > Making amends is simply telling the person you harmed the truth about your actions as you now see it, trusting that the healing, the self-acceptance, and the serenity you will gain is worth the risk of rejection you may encounter.
3. _____ > Trust God and those you have hurt to receive your confession for healing, rather than to live in fear of any negative opinion that would bring hurt or shame to you. Although this risking of open rejection is frightening, the fruit is transforming and freeing.
4. _____ > Step 9 is not for “sissies.” It takes courage, good judgment, and a careful sense of timing. It is a process of working Steps 1-8.

The 12 Steps > Step 9: Four Groups of People to Reconcile

1. _____ > Family members and closest friends. Those whom you have hurt and even been abusive to and want to make complete amends. Acknowledge your self-centeredness and your controlling ways. Be aware of the temptation to justify your failure.
2. _____ > You are to go and make amends, but never at someone else's expense.
3. _____ > Don't make promises about the future. Stay in the present and own your failure (I John 2:9.10).
4. _____ > Those who have moved away or dead, or you have lost contact. Write a letter. Remember: never try to clear your own conscience by harming someone else.

The 12 Steps > Step 9: The Results of Trying to Make Amends.

1. _____ > Love often can be restored to a dead marriage when spouses can and do take ownership of their failures and make amends when they hurt or abuse each other.
2. _____ > There's a delusion, especially in the Church, that all family members, especially in Christian families, feel loving and close. Many of us don't talk about the pain in relationships with brothers, sisters, parents, or children, because we are ashamed to feel such intense anger, resentment, or even hatred toward members of our own family.
3. _____ > Be aware that family members may want to talk you out of making amends – “You don't need to do that! You didn't do anything wrong!”

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Who have you hurt?
2. Who has hurt you?
3. What has model reconciliation?

Bible Verses – New Living Translation

Isaiah 58:12 - ¹²Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities. Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.

Matthew 5:23,24 - ²³ "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

Leviticus 19:17,18 - ¹⁷ "Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin. ¹⁸ "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD .

**"I Still Believe In You"
Vince Gill**

Everybody wants a little piece of my time
But still I put you at the end of the line
How it breaks my heart to cause you this pain
To see the tears you cry fallin' like rain

Give me the chance to prove
And I'll make it up to you

I still believe in you
With a love that will always be
Standing so strong and true
Baby I still believe in you and me

Somewhere along the way, I guess I just lost track
Only thinkin' of myself never lookin' back
For all the times I've hurt you, I apologize
I'm sorry it took so long to finally realize

Give me the chance to prove
That nothing's worth losing you

I still believe in you
With a love that will always be
Standing so strong and true
Baby I still believe in you and me

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The 12 Steps

**Step 9: Made Direct Amends to Such People Wherever Possible, Except When to Do So Would Injure Them or Others.
Reconcile When Possible.**

Isaiah 58:12; Matthew 5:23,24; Leviticus 19:17-18

THE 12 STEPS: A CLASSIC MODEL FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



The 12 Step process is an experience of being changed by a loving, supportive God who knows what we need and helps us through our pain to see and give up our own selfish agendas and surrender to His. The 12-Steps offer a structure of discipline to become holy and whole. Our task is to remove the self-imposed blocks or character defects that stand between God and us. We do this so we can be awakened, meet God personally with our own true selves, and do his will. The 12-Steps are like scaffolding that allows the “spiritual house” of our personal life to be built. This study of the 12-Steps will be an amazing spiritual adventure. Act like a man!

The 12 Steps: Goals & Spiritual Disciplines



Goal:

1. Peace with God.
2. Peace with God.
3. Peace with God.
4. Peace with Ourselves.
5. Peace with Ourselves.
6. Peace with Ourselves.
7. Peace with Ourselves.
8. Peace with Others.
9. Peace with Others.
10. Peace with Others.
11. Keeping the Peace.
12. Keeping the Peace.

Discipline:

1. Submission (Rom. 7:17).
2. Conversion (Phil. 2:13).
3. Conversion (Rom. 12:1).
4. Confession (Lam. 3:40).
5. Confession (James 5:16).
6. Repentance (James 4:10).
7. Repentance (I John 1:9).
8. Amends (Luke 6:31).
9. Amends (Matt. 5:23-24).
10. Maintenance (I Cor. 10:12).
11. Prayer (Col. 3:16).
12. Ministry (Gal. 6:1).

The 12 Steps > Step 9: The Process of Reconciliation



1. **NOT Required** > Being a Christian does not “require” that you make amends, but unless you take the risk of being rejected and make amends, you do not become reconciled with those you have harmed. You are blocked not only from relating to those persons but also from worshipping God. Jesus said, “Go!”
2. **Tell the Truth** > Making amends is simply telling the person you harmed the truth about your actions as you now see it, trusting that the healing, the self-acceptance, and the serenity you will gain is worth the risk of rejection you may encounter.
3. **Happiness & Intimacy** > Trust God and those you have hurt to receive your confession for healing, rather than to live in fear of any negative opinion that would bring hurt or shame to you. Although this risking of open rejection is frightening, the fruit is transforming and freeing.
4. **Takes a Man** > Step 9 is not for “sissies.” It takes courage, good judgment, and a careful sense of timing. It is a process of working Steps 1-8.

The 12 Steps > Step 9: Four Groups of People to Reconcile



1. **People you go to at once** > Family members and closest friends. Those whom you have hurt and even been abusive to and want to make complete amends. Acknowledge your self-centeredness and your controlling ways. Be aware of the temptation to justify your failure.
2. **People you make only partial disclosure to** > You are to go and make amends, but never at someone else's expense.
3. **Specific family members, friends, business associates, and other individuals in your past** > Don't make promises about the future. Stay in the present and own your failure (I John 2:9.10).
4. **People with whom you can't make personal contact** > Those who have moved away or dead, or you have lost contact. Write a letter. Remember: never try to clear your own conscience by harming someone else.

The 12 Steps > Step 9: The Results of Trying to Make Amends



1. **Romance Restored** > Love often can be restored to a dead marriage when spouses can and do take ownership of their failures and make amends when they hurt or abuse each other.
2. **Families Restored** > There's a delusion, especially in the Church, that all family members, especially in Christian families, feel loving and close. Many of us don't talk about the pain in relationships with brothers, sisters, parents, or children, because we are ashamed to feel such intense anger, resentment, or even hatred toward members of our own family.
3. **Family Dynamics** > Be aware that family members may want to talk you out of making amends – “You don't need to do that! You didn't do anything wrong!”

ACTION: Journal This!



1. Who have you hurt?
2. Who has hurt you?
3. What has model reconciliation?