

Questions for Tuesday Night Step Study:

1. Describe the difference between humiliation and humility.
2. Have I ever become impatient with God's timing in the process of changing my heart and character?
3. Have I ever held back from asking God for what I need because I am projecting my disappointments onto him? Do I trust him?
4. Do I realize that the "secret sins" of pride, judgment, and comparison are just as serious as the more blatant ones?
5. Can I now trust in faith that Jesus will not only make up for my weaknesses but will also begin to remove shortcomings as I surrender humbly to his will? If not, why?
6. Have I disguised my addiction by covering it up with a good image? Have I hidden behind a good reputation?
7. God already sees us as we will be when his work is done. Am I aware of any blocks that keep me from asking him into my heart to do that work? What are they?

Clearing the Mess - Isaiah 57:12-19

1. Have I developed enough humility from my experiences in addiction to see that I need to let God work in my heart? Is there any doubt that self-reliance has kept God out?

Giving Up Control - Jeremiah 18:1-6

1. Have I ever demanded to have circumstances changed for my benefit? When?
2. What keeps me from letting go so God can shape my life better than I could ever imagine or create myself?

Pride Born of Hurt - Luke 11:5-13

1. Is it hard for me to ask anyone, even God, for help? What keeps me from sharing?
2. What experiences in my family of origin have brought about this self-sufficiency?
3. Am I willing to give up self-sufficiency and pride to persistently ask for God's help in removing my shortcomings?

A Humble Heart

1. Have I ever compared my faults, problems, and sins to blatant sins of others such as robbery, murder, and adultery to justify avoiding deeper work on my own character defects? What does this do for me?
2. Have I ever justified myself because I attend church, sing in the choir, and do service work? Do I judge others for their lack of participation or involvement?
3. After self-examination in Steps Four through Six, have I been struggling with self-hatred and shame?

4. Have addiction and adversities humbled me enough to open the door to God's forgiveness?

Declared Not Guilty - Romans 3:23-28

1. Steps Six through Seven are one path to *acceptance* of this verse: all of us have fallen short, not only of our own ideals, but also of God's glory. Have I been trying to "measure up" and show God that I can "be good" by doing good works? How have I tried to show him that I am okay?

Into the Open - Philippians 2:5-9

1. Do I still fear that others will find out about my addiction? Will my pride be hurt when someone knows the extent of it? Am I willing to share if it will help others?
2. Can I still release to God my self-centered fears of being known and of losing my image? If so, write a prayer to God expressing your desire to do so.

Eyes of Love - I John 5:11-15

1. Is my confidence in God's willingness to remove my shortcomings renewed? How and why?

"Shortcomings" is a polite way of saying *sin, weakness, defects in character, addiction, compulsion, dependency* - or a thousand other conditions and symptoms that indicate we are falling short of the glory of God and the lives he has called us to live. Asking God to remove our shortcomings is always a joint venture between us and him. Since we have spent much of our lives proving we can't fix ourselves, it is time to finally ask God to do what we will never have the power or insight to do ourselves.