

Theme: False Christian Assumptions

**Assumption 4 “I just need to give it to the Lord.”**

*Alcoholism had cost Dennis two large businesses and two families. After each loss he built his life anew but was unable to sustain it. His life was bleak and no one believed he could ever change. But Dennis is a different man today. He is a successful businessman, a faithful husband, a loving father, and a good friend. And he has maintained this lifestyle for two decades. When asked how he made his amazing turnaround, Dennis answers dryly, “It wasn’t hard. I went to seven AA meetings a day.”*

- A. Co-laborers with God
- B. Two passive teachings
  - 1. “position”
  - 2. “get your eyes off yourself”
- C. How we cultivate our own growth.

WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO...

1. ...own our problems
2. ...confess our failure to solve our problem
3. ...ask for help from God and others
4. ...continue searching and asking God and others to reveal to us what is in our soul
5. ...turn from the evil that we discover inside ourselves
6. ...find out what needs were not met when we grew up in our family, and then take those needs to the family of God, where they can be met.
7. ...seek out those whom we have injured and , when it is helpful, to apologize, admit our wrong, and ask them for forgiveness
8. ...forgive others who have hurt us
9. ...develop gifts and talents God has given us
10. ...continue seeking God
11. ...seek truth and wisdom
12. ...follow God’s example of love

THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted we were powerless over [our sin] – that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to [other sinners], and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why would it be tempting to live according to this false assumption?
2. "Get your eyes off yourself" teaching says, "All this introspection is self-centered, humanistic, and useless. Instead of worshiping yourself, just focus on the Lord." The Bible, however, teaches that we must look inside and work on the things in our soul (Matthew 7.5). In Isaiah 6.1-5, what did the prophet realize about himself when he saw God? What have realized about yourself as you've come to know God better?
3. Describe some natural examples of the spiritual principle that we are co-laborers with God in cultivating our spiritual growth. (i.e., God supplies the rain, sunshine, and soil, but a farmer has to go out and plant seeds, care for his crop, and eventually harvest the crop).
4. Of the list of 12 actions with which we can "work out our salvation," which action do you find the easiest? Which do you find most difficult to take? Why?
5. In which situation in your life do you need to be a more active partner with God? What have you "just given to the Lord" that needs to be worked on by both you and God?

**In order to grow spiritually, we must be active co-laborers with Jesus in the process (Philippians 2.12-13)**

