

GOSPEL MESSAGE OF JESUS
And
THE TWELVE STEPS
How Are They Similar?

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
Luke 5:31-32

Human Condition	Christian Stages Of the Spiritual Journey	12 Steps
Powerlessness	Purgation	I Can't
Desperate Desiring	Illumination	God Can
Sweet Surrender	Union	Let Him

POWERLESSNESS is the essential starting place where we all must begin.

The search for God begins at the point of need.

Jesus and 12 Steps say the same thing with different vocabulary:

We suffer to get well.

We surrender to win.

We die to live.

We give it away to keep it.

Richard Rohr

Step 1 of the Twelve Steps

We admitted we were powerless over ___?___ ---that our lives had become unmanageable.

“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.”
Romans 7:15,18

“When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
Matthew 9:36

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

THE only bridge to powerlessness is from acceptance and naming our sin/addiction.

1st Step is the hardest and most denied. It is about letting go of our need to control.

Until something comes along that I can't manage, I'll never find the True Manager.

Step 2 of the Twelve Steps

Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

“Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we could rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.”
2 Corinthians 1:9

“But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.”
Luke 15:20

“May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do this.”
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

To finally surrender ourselves to healing, three spaces have to be opened in us at the same time: our opinionated head, our closed-down heart and our defensive and defended body.

Every part of you must be open and present and ready to hear.
“When all of you is there you’ll know. When all of you is there, the banquet will begin.”
Richard Rohr

Religion is for people who are afraid of going to hell.
Spirituality is for people who have been there.

Step 3 of the Twelve Steps

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood God.*

“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12-13

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Mark 8:34

“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.” Romans 11:6

We must shed the notion that letting go = giving up.

The wisdom of the Gospel and of 12 Step is that it doesn't hinge on any kind of moral worthiness --- but rather on our unworthiness. Christ died for our sins/"hi, I'm Sharon; I'm an alcoholic."

We must “radically accept being radically accepted.” Rohr

THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—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 alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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