

## **God Invented AA**

- **Ignorant Comments made about the Bible**
- **AA Has Forgotten or simply has rebelled from Its Spiritual Roots**
- **AA is Indebted to the Bible**
- **Cultivating a Mature Interpretation of the Bible**

## **Ignorant Comments made about the Bible**

We are Talking about the Bible, or if you prefer, spirituality, not religion

- Religion has had a bad track record, has sullied the Bible's witness

## **Xtianity as the religion of empire has hurt the Bible's witness**

- Constantine AD 313 Edict of Milan made Xtianity legitimate
- Since empire has perverted Xtianity as the religion of empire

## **It does not help that many evangelical Xtians push the myth that American was founded by Bible believers for political reasons, but ...**

- The so-called self-evident truths: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness contained in the founding documents came from 10th C Enlightenment philosophy, not the Bible
- The founding fathers sought God by reason and rationalism, not revelation
- That all men were created equal coined by Deist slave-owners, not bible believers

## **Again, forget about religion, we are talking about God's revealed truth**

- Complaining about the God of one's youth not an argument against
- Make accusations against God as homophobic, mysogenistic, genocidal
- Not liking God is not an argument against God

## **The Bible is frequently misrepresented**

- I was taught that because I have cussed, I am going to hell
- If one's parent actually teaches that, it is their own heresy
- The Bible, and to be fair, most denominations teach that all fall short of God's plan for us
- That God wants a relationship with us, wants us to trust him for our needs
- That Salvation comes when we stop competing with God for honor and glory with our man exalting systems of boasting, especially those associated with empire and religion

**Jesus taught blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the meek, blessed are the persecuted** in contrast to the claims of empire that teach blessed are the rich, blessed are the mighty, blessed are the noble, blessed are the victors

- Jesus came into history to reveal God's ways in contrast to man's ways
- Empire and religion lust for power in this world

### **Jesus' Good News is a reversal motif that turns the world's order upside-down**

- The Jews boasted of salvation by ethnicity, the ultimate group identity privilege
- Jesus' own people, the Jews, rejected Jesus because His kingdom was not of this world
- When they thought he would be their king to overturn Roman rule they praised him, but when they learned he had not come to fulfill their lusts, they cried, "Crucify him!"

### **This Reversal Motif is taught in Jesus Tour de Force known as the SM**

- Dr. Bob was vocal about AA's debt to the Bible
- In particular, the SM, 1 Cor 13 on love, and James, faith without works is dead

## **AA is Indebted to the Bible**

### **Direct Citations**

Thy will be done, is from the Lord's prayer, from Matt 6:10

Thy will not mine, be done, from Luke 22:42 cited in the Big Book p. 85 and elsewhere

Love thy neighbor as thyself, from Matt 19:19 cited in the Big Book p. 153

Faith without works is dead, from James 2:20 cited in the Big Book p. 76, 88.

### **The Principle of Anonymity depicted in the 11th and 12th traditions in long form**

*Exc. 11. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity.*

*We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising... There is never need to praise ourselves*

*12. We believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance.*

*Matthew 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

- Jesus denounced hypocrites who made a big show of their donations to the church
- He preached the same principle with regards to prayer, don't make a big show of it

### **Bible roots of slogans**

### **One Day at a Time and First Things First are taken from the Sermon on the Mount**

*Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

- In other words, stop worrying and instead...

*33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

- First Things First! Get your priorities in order, seek God, trust in God
- Develop faith in God's kingdom or His sovereign rule over your life and all creation
- Whatever happens in your life is God's will, align your life to his will

*34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

- One Day at a Time! No one is guaranteed more than this day, do not presume more
- Be grateful, live in the present, God will not burden you with more you can handle

**But for the Grace of God**, concept e.g page 25 in the Big Book

"He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do for ourselves"  
*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

## **Biblical roots of the 12 Steps**

### **Step One and Deflation at Depth**

*Psalms 55:1-5 Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. 2 Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; 3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. 4 My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. 5 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.*

*Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

### **Step Two, Willingness, Belief, and Seeking**

*Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

*Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

*John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

### **Step Three and the Decision to Surrender**

*Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

#### **Step Four and Self-examination**

*Matthew 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*

#### **Step Five and Confession**

*James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

#### **Step Six, Conviction and Readiness to Change**

*Psalm 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

#### **Step Seven, Humble Submission and Rebirth, Conversion**

*James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

#### **Step Eight, Willingness to Make Amends**

*Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.*

#### **Step Nine, Restitution**

*Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

#### **Step Ten and Daily Reprieve, Surrender, Corrective Action**

*Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

#### **Step Eleven, Prayer, Guidance, Growth, Power**

*James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

*1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*Psalm 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*

*James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

*Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

### **Step Twelve, Awakening, Witness, Practice of Principles**

*Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

*Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

## **AA Has Forgotten or simply has rebelled from Its Spiritual Roots**

- Hostility Towards the Bible has Hurt The Success Rate
- There is an atheistic stubbornness that has been bred by the culture
- Power Greater Than Ourselves was assumed to be God of the Bible
- Revealed God understood, not fashion to one's liking

## **Cultivating a Mature Interpretation of the Bible**

- Anthropomorphism
- Historical and cultural context
- what did it mean then, what does it mean for today?

**End with the St. Francis Prayer, pg. 99 12x12**

