



The Voice

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Step 6—"We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

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JUNE 2026 | YOUNG & SOBER | STEP SIX

Sometimes It Takes Awhile

BY: MIKE W. | SPRING HILL, FL

Wow, the instructions for Step Six were in the **Big Book** all along. Now for his next epiphany.

For many years I didn't feel comfortable with Step Six. The first time I approached it all my sponsor would say was, "Remember, it says 'were entirely ready.'" His advice was not much help. I was looking for clear instructions. I concluded—in my pea brain—that my first five Steps made me entirely ready, so I moved on to Step Seven.

Well, that didn't work. I went back to Step Six. For a long time, I looked everywhere to find out more about this Step. I went to Big Book meetings and "Twelve and Twelve" meetings for years, but never gained a good understanding of Step Six that I was comfortable with. I even read the book Drop the Rock, about Steps Six and Seven, and only became more confused.

Finally, my sponsor pointed out the clear-cut instructions for Step Six in the Big Book. It didn't sink in right away, but a few weeks later—while I was on the way to a meeting where we just happened to be reading about Step Six—it hit me. What my sponsor was referring to is that section in the Big Book in the chapter "Into Action" that starts with: "Returning home we find a place where we can be quiet for an hour ..." And there it was, the instructions I was looking for.

The Big Book tells me to review what I had just done in Step Five. Then, to thank God that I know him better as a result. Next, open the Big Book and turn to the page in the chapter "How It Works" with the Twelve Steps listed. I'm to carefully

read the first five Steps and ask myself whether I have omitted anything. The text then goes into a wonderful metaphor about building an archway through which we walk to freedom. We are directed to ask ourselves whether we have left anything out or have "tried to make mortar without sand." If I have done the first five Steps to my satisfaction, I then look at Step Six. Here I ask if I am willing to allow God to remove all my defects of character. If yes, I move on to Step Seven, which simply asks me to say the Seventh Step Prayer. If I'm not yet willing, I can pray for willingness until I'm ready to go on to Step Seven.

The next day during my quiet time, I carried out these instructions. For the first time in 18 years, I found myself comfortable with Steps Six and Seven.

Wow. Now I understand that the process really is that simple because God does all the heavy lifting. **Yes, the answers are indeed in the Big Book.** But sometimes it takes a long time for me to see them! Gotta love AA. I wonder when the next epiphany will come.

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Important Dates

June 14th —Noon

(always 2nd Sunday)

Intergroup/Central Office
Representative meet
Lost & Found
616 S. Pine Ave

June 25th-6:45pm

District 17
monthly meeting
Lost & Found Club
616 S. Pine Ave

Every Thursday Area 14

Service Workshop, 6pm
Hospitality, 5:45pm
New Topic every Thursday
Zoom Meeting ID:

828 5682 4762; pw: service

FAITHFUL FIVERS

**Contribute \$5/month
or \$60/year**

Contributors:

Joe S, Phil H,

Ralph W, Ginger H

Linda H, Stephanie D,

Casey P

Your membership directly
supports 12-Step work at
District 17 Central Office

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

June 3, 2026

"Living sober is not all roses all the time. But the cool thing is, when I am nervous, it is OK. I do not have to drink to fix it. It is the same with being sad, worried or afraid."

Elkton, Md., August 2012, "Then Came Susan and Dottie", AA Grapevine

Tradition 6—"An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

JUNE 2026 YOUNG SOBER | TRADITION SIX

Grand Ideas

By: Jimmy C. | Peculiar, Missouri

A member shares how Tradition Six helped him stop trying to fix AA and get a new perspective on money, property and prestige

I once spent countless hours drunk, solving all the world's problems. Pick a topic: politics, religion, sports, careers or other people's relationships. I was an expert on any aspect of life, even sobriety.

Of all the original founders of AA, I relate best to Bill W. Like him, I'm a promoter. I can come up with an idea a minute, all about what other people need to do to improve their lives. Back then my life was a mess, but I knew exactly what everyone else needed to do to fix their lives. I always used my "good name" to show other people where they needed to improve themselves. I was working a full-time job, but was unable to make the rent or keep up my car payments. By anyone's definition I was a "bankrupt idealist."

When I arrived at my first AA meeting, I was told to "put the plug in the jug and leave it there." I have never forgotten that suggestion. However my bankrupt idealism lingered much longer than my last hangover. When I had 30 days of sobriety, I had only gone to about three AA meetings at the most. But I was ready to "fix" AA. Surprisingly, my ideas of how to improve the program were largely ignored.

As a salesman and a promoter, I was always looking for an angle to gain advantage for my ideas. With a 60-day coin in my pocket, I was ready to use my standing as a "longtimer" to demonstrate my

willingness to improve the AA program. When I was about six months into my sobriety journey, I decided it was time to test the strength of my recovery. I began attending my home group's monthly business meetings. I had a couple of ideas every month on what needed to be changed at our group. At about three years of sobriety, I made a failed attempt at being our group's general service rep. Then I completed a rotation as our group's treasurer, where I learned that it was possible for me to be honest. After that, I received a promotion. I was elected to be my home group's chairperson.

Service opportunities at the group level have been a wonderful experience for me and have saved me a lot of time. I no longer had to work the Steps, everyone else worked them for me! They took my inventory (Step Four), they talked behind my back (Step Five) and they told me where I needed to make amends (Step Eight). This was a real time saver.

Apparently I was continuously violating the Traditions. Every time something happened that someone didn't like, it was because I was violating some Tradition. Nobody could tell me exactly how or which Tradition I was violating, but they were sure that I was at fault. I had

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to study the Twelve Traditions to find out if I was really guilty or not. I was never in flagrant violation of any of our Traditions, but this process did teach me about all 12. As time went by I also learned how to apply the Traditions in my everyday life.

In Step Six I became willing to have God remove all my defects of character. Tradition Six is teaching me the practical application of willingness. The promoter in me wants to take full advantage of my AA membership. My willingness to apply Tradition Six has taught me to allow each AA group to be autonomous without my needing to fix them. It's no longer necessary for me to endorse any AA activity, as AA is getting along just fine without my corrections.

By my willingness to never endorse, finance or lend my AA name to anything outside of AA, I'm demonstrating the willingness to have the shyster aspects of my personality removed or at least held in check. Tradition Five taught me to "keep it simple," and do one thing and do it very well. Tradition Six has taught me to keep my AA name inside AA.

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REMINDERS



June 8th—1st Anniversary Celebration

"There is a Solution" @ 5:00 PM

*Countryside Presbyterian Church—7768 SW Hwy 200, Ocala,
(Room is to the right after you enter from the back door*

*Gratitude Dinner Committee—Saturday, June 13th @ 9:00 AM
Lost & Found Club*

*Living Sober Group will meet at
Steve M's Warehouse located behind LaHacienda Restaurant
Sunday, June 14th & Tuesday, June 16th
due to Vacation Bible School @ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*



Birthdays JUNE

- Bellevue Eye Opener**
- Kim—7
- Bellevue Group**
- Gus N—4
- Vernon—40
- Breakfast Club**
- Jen C—1
- Crystal L—4
- Steve M—20
- Paul C—43
- Joe M—44
- Headstart**
- Alivia—2
- Teresa—6
- Lori—7
- Living Sober**
- Katie O—2
- Deb—15
- Jennifer S—16
- Steve M—20
- ODAT**
- Paul B—1
- Kevin S—5
- Lori D—7
- Steve S—7
- Pat S—30
- Margie R—39
- Bill W—40
- We Give Up**
- Jean J—38

Contributions MAY

11th Step Group	\$ 60.00
Anonymity	\$ 54.00
Individuals	\$ 140.78
Last Call	\$ 75.00
Mano Abierta	\$ 15.00
One Day At A Time	\$300.00
Weir Crazy Group	\$150.00

Congratulations!

*“There is freedom
waiting for you,
On the breezes of the
sky, And you ask
“What if I fall?”
Oh but my darling,
“What if you fly?”*

— Erin Hanson

From the GSO Pamphlet

*Self-support;
Where Money and Spiritually Mix (F-3)*

10% to District 17
P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

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**10% to Area 14 \*\*\*\*\***  
NFAC Treasurer  
P.O. Box 840066  
St. Augustine, FL 32080  
*\*\*\*\*\* (Address changes every two years. Visit  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for correct address)*

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30% to General Service Office
*PO Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163*

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**50% to Central Office/Intergroup 17**  
*616 S Pine Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471*