A WAY TO LEARN ABOUT AND BEGIN TO APPLY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES IN YOUR LIFE

By Greg Pierce and Lois Pierce Richards

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Workbook is to help those who are seeking spiritual growth make progress towards their goals. It presents an extensive list of positive Principles and a simple process by which we can learn more about what they mean and how we can begin to apply them in our daily lives. These Principles are scattered throughout "Twelve Step Recovery" oriented literature as well as other spiritually based writings including the literature of most religions. There are, however, very few comprehensive lists of these principles and it has been difficult for most of us to overcome our misconceptions about them. This Workbook provides a method that can help. It is specifically designed for those who are actively involved in a Twelve Step Recovery Program, but should be equally effective for anyone who is pursuing spiritual growth. Its value for an individual depends on the amount of effort and thought they put into the process.

This Workbook is divided into four sections or sets of principles. The first three sets contain principles, per se, and are roughly grouped from most basic to more sophisticated terms. The fourth section contains principles in the form of concepts and sayings that are commonly expressed in the Twelve Step Fellowships. These sections should be completed in order since each set builds on the one preceding it. The four parts of this Workbook if taken as a whole, might seem a little overwhelming, so take it easy and consider one principle at a time.

This Workbook, if completed diligently, should provide a fairly good foundation for recovery and spiritual growth. Remember that this is only a beginning, as you learn and grow, more opportunities for learning and growth will be given to you. The stronger the foundation, the more stable the structure.

WORK HARD ~ READY ~ SET ~ GROW

DIRECTIONS

- Look up each principle in a good dictionary and study the definitions presented there, focusing on the definition which most closely fits the way we use the word in the Program or within its spiritual context. Be aware of other uses for the world and also look up any "rootwords" contained within the word or phrase.
 - It is very important to use a good dictionary, one that is fairly comprehensive and preferably one that includes the linguistic derivation of the word. Most paperback or "pocket" dictionaries are not good enough. In a good dictionary you will usually find more than one meaning or use for each word; some of these will apply to the way we use the word in the Program and some will not. "Root-words" can be very important (i.e. the "root-words" of the principle of RESPONSIBILITY are RESPONSE and ABILITY) and by understanding them we can learn a lot about what the principle really means.
- 2. Write a definition of the principle as it applies to the Twelve Step Recovery process. This can be achieved by copying the dictionary definition which most closely fits the way we use the principle in the Program or by writing your own definition based on what it says in the dictionary. Obviously, it is better to write your own.
- 3. Make a list of which of the Twelve Steps or Twelve Traditions to which this principle might apply.
 - Look at your definition and then read each Step and Tradition in order, asking yourself "Does this fit in here?" or "Does this work?" Remember, the answer might be ALL or NONE.
- 4. Locate <u>at least</u> two examples of where this principle is stated, used, or implied in Program literature or sayings and write them down in the space provided.
 - Write down the title and page number where you find the principle; then write the phrase or sentence which includes the principle.
- 5. List <u>at least</u> two examples of how this principle can be applied in your daily life or in your interactions with other people.
 - This final step may be very difficult for you and requires a lot of thought. If you get stuck on a principle you might ask your sponsor to discuss it with you. Specific examples seem to be more valuable than generalizations.
- 6. LIVE BY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED.

PART ONE ~~~ PRINCIPLES

ABSTINENCE

CARING

COMMUNICATION

COURAGE

FELLOWSHIP

GIVING

GRATITUDE

HAPPINESS

HONESTY

HOPE

IDENTIFICATION

LISTENING

LOVE

OPENMINDEDNESS

PATIENCE

POSITIVE ACTION

POWERLESSNESS

PRAYER

RESPONSIBILITY

SANITY

SELF-DISCLOSURE

SHARING

SPIRITUALITY

TRUST

TRUTH

UNMANAGEABILITY

VULNERABILITY

WILLINGNESS

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PART TWO ~~~ PRINCIPLES

ACCEPTANCE

ANONYMITY

CLEANLINESS (BEING CLEAN)

COMMITMENT

COOPERATION

EMPATHY

FAITH

FORGIVENESS

FREEDOM

HUMILITY

INTEGRITY

LOYALTY

MEDITATION

PERSEVERANCE

PRUDENCE

RECIPROCITY

RESPECT

SELF-ASSESSMENT

SERENITY

SERVICE

SIMPLICITY

SOBRIETY

SPONSORSHIP

TACT

THOUGHTFULNESS

TOLERANCE

UNCERTAINTY (RISK)

UNITY

VIGILANCE

WISDOM

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PART THREE ~~~ PRINCIPLES

AWARENESS

BALANCE

CELIBACY

CENTEREDNESS

CHANGE

CHARITY

CLARITY

COMPASSION

CONSCIENCE

CONTENTMENT

DEDICATION

DEVOTION

DISCRIMINATION

ENCOURAGEMENT

EQUALITY

EXPERIENCE

HARMONY

MIRACLES

PEACE OF MIND

PRACTICE

PRIORITIES

PURITY

RELEVANCE

SELF-AWARENESS

SELF-RESPECT

SELF-SACRIFICE

STEADFASTNESS

STRENGTH

UNDERSTANDING

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PART FOUR ~~~ CONCEPTS

ACTING AS IF
ATTRACTION NOT PROMOTION
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING
COMING TO BELIEVE
CONSCIOUS CONTACT
DIVINE INTERVENTION
EASY DOES IT
FIRST THINGS FIRST
GOD, AS WE UNDERSTAND HIM
GOING TO ANY LENGTHS
HABILITATION NOT REHABILITATION
H.A.L.T.S.

HIGHER POWER HUGS NOT DRUGS I CAN'T, WE CAN

I CAN'T, WE CAN
INCLUSIVENESS (vs. EXCLUSIVENESS)
JUST FOR TODAY
KEEP COMING BACK
LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE
LIVING THE PROGRAM
ONE DAY AT A TIME
PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY

PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES
PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION
RECOVERING (vs. RECOVERED)
SIMILARITIES NOT DIFFERENCES
TURN IT OVER
UTILIZE, DON'T ANALYZE

ACTING AS IF

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UTILIZE, DON'T ANALYZE

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