

Working with Others

"Any A.A. who has not experienced the joys and satisfaction of helping another alcoholic regain his place in life has not yet fully realized the complete benefits of this fellowship." (A.A. Sponsorship Pamphlet. 1944. Clarence S.)

Question: What does the Big Book reference 123 times in the first 88 pages? Answer: Alcoholics working with other alcoholics. And, by working with another alcoholic, the Big Book doesn't mean a "sponsor", it specifically means two alcoholics working together, putting the A.A. Program into action.

How important is it for A.A. members to work newcomers? Our Big Book says:

"Practical experience shows that **nothing** will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill." (Alcoholics Anonymous. 89)

"This seemed to prove that one alcoholic could affect another as no nonalcoholic (non-addict) could. It also indicated that strenuous work, one alcoholic (recovered member) with another (newcomer), was vital to permanent recovery." (Alcoholics Anonymous. 3rd ed. xvi)

"We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others." (Alcoholics Anonymous. 132)

"But if you are shaky you had better work with another alcoholic instead." (Alcoholics Anonymous. 102)

"Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery. A kindly act once in a while isn't enough." (Alcoholics Anonymous. 97)

Source – www.bigbooksponsorship.org

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