

STEP 2: I believe God exists, that He cares about me and He can help me to regain control of my life.

"That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure." **Philippians 2:13**

I. Desire to Change

Proverbs 16:1-3 *We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives. Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.*

- Do you believe God knows the right answers to your problems and if you commit your life to Him you will succeed?

Matthew 6:21 *Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

- What do you desire most in your life? How is it influencing your future?

Psalms 27:14 *Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.*

- Are you ready to follow God and patiently live your life on His terms?

Matthew 6:33 *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.*

- Are you willing to go to any lengths to seek God's purpose for your life?

Proverbs 3:5-8 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.*

- Surrendering to God is humbling, but it's the only way to lead a good life. Are you prepared to trust God?

Romans 8:28 *We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.*

- God can change even our sins and mistakes into means of spiritual growth and blessing. Do you understand there is pain in growth?

Proverbs 13:12 *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.*

- There are no shortcuts to recovery. Are you prepared for a life of continually following the recovery principles?

1 Peter 5:7 *Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.*

- God cares about you! One way to increase our trust in God is find a friend further long the recovery road than you are. Do you know someone your trust enough to keep you accountable in recovery?

Matthew 7:8 *Everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

- As we discover God's loving character we will be encouraged to ask Him for the gift of recovery. How has your dysfunctional past hindered you in believing God can and will help you?

Philippians 2:13 *God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.*

- Obedience to God's program is a requirement of spiritual growth. What do you need to change in order to live the life God has planned for you?

II. Surrender to God

Matthew 16:24-26 *Jesus said to His disciples, "If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"*

- Recovery is about being led by the Spirit, and treading in the steps of Jesus. We need to learn to value our souls and let Christ be our One true Higher Power. What do you expect to gain as a result of recovery?

James 4:8 *Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.*

- God will not refuse to comfort anyone who really cares about their past, wants to change it and humbles themselves before Him. How do you feel about the past and your part in it?

1 Corinthians 10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

- We cannot fall by temptation, if we hold fast to Jesus. Through Him we are strengthened to overcome our problems, with all their terrors and enticements. The fear of the Lord, put into their hearts, is a great means of our safety. How are you turning to God when temptation presents itself in your life?

Psalms 9:11 *Sing praises to the Lord who reigns in Jerusalem. Tell the world about His unforgettable deeds.*

- When we believe that God cares about us, not only do we desire to praise Him but we also want others do the same. Who do you know that needs recovery that you would like to see here? Start praying for them.

1 Corinthians 6:20 *God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body.*

- Because God bought us at such a high price, He wants us to live right and be united to Christ as one spirit. What are you doing now you didn't used to do because you are in recovery?

Romans 10:17 *Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

- The beginning, progress, and strength in recovery is by hearing. Hearing the word. It is the Word of God that will strengthen our faith. When was the last time you heard the Word of God and paid attention to it?

Isaiah 40:28 *Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding.*

- We need to guard against unbelief, pride, and self-confidence. If we try to move forward in our own strength, we won't last. Having our hearts and our hopes in heaven, will carry us above our problems, and enable us to move forward in recovery. How has your life changed since you entered recovery?

Ephesians 2:8-9 *God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

- We should glorify God in our conversations, and our perseverance in holiness. We should not abuse Scripture, or accuse it of any tendency to lad us backwards. No excuses. How are you glorifying God in your everyday living?

Hebrews 11:6 *It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him.*

- Our examples of recovery will either encourage others or convince them it's not for them. When others discover you are in recovery how do they react?

John 3:30 *He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.*

- John knew that Jesus would increase in honour and influence, while he himself would be less followed. How do you feel knowing that the glory for your recovery belongs to God and not to you?



II. We came to BELIEVE

BELIEVING IS A CONFESSION FROM THE HEART

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:9***

BELIEVING INCLUDES ACTION

*Obey the Lord your God by keeping all these commands and decrees. **Deuteronomy 27:10***

IT'S NOT ENOUGH JUST TO BELIEVE

*You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. **James 2:19***