

October 11, 2020

Choose Today

Joshua 24:14-28

Six of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous mention God. The organization was founded in 1935 by two Christian men seeking to overcome alcoholism by working together with others and with God.¹ The founding members realized that the disease of alcoholism can be too great to overcome alone. They needed earthly and heavenly support. Now it “is seen by researchers as one of the most effective and least expensive tools offering treatment.”²

Joshua understood the need for people to be held accountable for the promises we make. After making a covenant for the people, he placed the stone as a witness against them, “because it [had] heard all the LORD’s words that he spoke to [them].” The stone would “serve as a witness” against them in case they weren’t “true to [their] God” (Joshua 24:27). The promise the people made to God was written in stone, so to speak. If they wavered from their commitment, the stone was there to remind them of the vow they made to God.

The student book author writes that seeking out support from others can help us deepen our commitments. “If you form such a group of supporters, you become the stone in Joshua’s ministry to the people at Shechem.” This concept is what Alcoholics Anonymous is based on. The “12-Step Group” of which a person is part claims responsibility for everyone in that group. If one person relapses, it is a reflection of the entire group. That’s why the first of The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous begins with “Our common welfare should come first.”³

God has promised to remain faithful to us. God is true, and God’s promise will not be broken. Can you say the same for your commitments to God? Finding support in others, such as a Bible study group, is a time-tested way of sticking to your commitments. As you renew your commitment to God, seek others who will hold you accountable to that promise. Use step two of the Alcoholics Anonymous Traditions to guide you: “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”⁴

1. Who can be in your support group this week, and how will you be responsible for one another?
2. Have you failed in a commitment to God? How can you rectify that broken promise?
3. What are ways you can be supportive of others in their commitments?

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¹From aa.org/pages/en_us/historical-data-the-birth-of-aa-and-its-growth-in-the-uscanada.

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2020, by Chuck Aaron (Cokesbury, 2020); page 63.

³From aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-122_en.pdf.

⁴From aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-122_en.pdf.