

A.A.

① Elizabeth

45 people

Notes from Religion & Spirituality

Elis

We hear that AA is not religious, but had a pre-conceived belief. But our literature does not say that. It says a power greater than ourselves we believe in.

Member Area 6.

How did when did Lords Prayer get into meetings?

Response

Prayer people knew. Became a tradition. Reference in the Language of the Heart by Bill where these confessions.

Member Area 5

Didn't understand difference when he was new between Spirit. & Relig. There is a lot of confusion. Felt uncomfortable but wanted to fit in the group. Didn't feel it. But eventually through pain, changed him. Began to pray and came to believe. I had to experience it. Movement in his district to use the

Reparability

Member

Lords Prayer only had (from AA.org) Bible group
1938 began to use it. ~~1955~~ of ford group became
controversy in 1955.

Member

"Saman on the Mount" Eunit 20x. Explains the Lords Prayer. Described his spiritual experience. Realized he had not been forgiven then began to practice forgiveness, changed him.

Member

Not about whether AA is a religion or not it is concerned about others outside AA say we are.

Member-

Not AAs concern what others think about us.

Member

My concept of HP very personal. "I see God in all of you."

Member area?

We can educate ourselves & use PI CPC to educate the professional community.

Member

Lanily member asked him is it all about God. Had to educate them that is was about honesty. His mom still thinks it is like a religion

Member

Refer to our literature. It tells us what to do. Can you do the steps without some concept of a Higher Power?

Member

Who wants AA to be a religious program? Asked the group. No one raised their hand.

- Religious
- Terms - Normies = people in not a part
 - dry = " who have left
 - Big Book = like the Bible
 - Big Book thumpers = like ministers

We need to be careful of our language.

Our book is rife with Protestant theology. Bill was. Will younger people understand the cultural/Contextual references.

Member

12x12 tells us we need to find a power greater than themselves they are comfortable with. Read the book. I live well because I not worried about what others believe.

Member

Preamble = AA is a "fellowship." We are here together. I had to work the steps. Religion vs. Spirituality we need to stay out of. It's a controversy.

Member

We are making a religion out of not being a religion. Saying I'm - an alcoholic, praying 3rd, 7th, prayers. are those a religion? I just know I did what I was told & it worked. I'm not saying you can't be a Christian. To the outside we are looking more like a religion.

Member Area

I believe in god. I don't know the answers. I didn't want anything to do with god. No one told me what to believe in. My sponsor didn't tell me how to pray suggested I do. Told me to keep it simple "call it god." I'm sober. If I want what they say in the book, I do what the book says.

Member

2 weeks sober. Book a fund fun chunk. "What god are they talking about?" She said I don't know. Big book. Studies scare me because they say there is a right way & the wrong way.

Member

Zone AA. Transitions where I changed the book. to she etc... Then I loved the book. Now being more open. Not anyone feels a fundamental search for god.

Member

She been investigating spirituality or religion my ^{whole} home life. We are like the people who want to look behind the curtain. I have investigated all these things. It's so simple. Investigation, practice. More clear understanding sucking down coffee, talking story with all of you. AAers get me charged.

Member

I love AA! Know people who are meticulous about their spiritual lives & some who are very religious. AA grows in non-Christian countries.

Members

Lords Prayer scared me off. 8 months later I was in the Psych
~~word~~ word and would do anything to stay sober. ① I stayed sober
② hard staged shaking my first spiritual experiences.
You don't question anything in cults. We are talking about it
that's what's different. In vestage, ask. I know so many
Agnostics but I can't be because I have been giving so many
spiritual experiences. The Big Book for me didn't come from Mt. Sinai

Past Delegate

Took up this topic in his panel. Lit. Committ. agreed its not a
religion. But our practices do look that way to outsiders
side people. I went to So. Africa. Tough time keeping new-
comers because of the way it seems christian. At the begining
of the meeting my took great care to explain but
ended the meeting with Lords Prayer. Afraid to change.
I stopped saying the 2 Pray. for 2 years as an experiment.
It can be scary not to participate.

Member Dist 1

I am a big book thumper. Its my AA address. Spiritual
solution. I take people through the steps. The point
is to have a spiritual awakening.

Members

I know 2 people white who were Budist & couldn't stay sober
couldn't grasp the concept. I look around & don't see a lot of
Asian women. We are self segregating. Keiki aforonia.
We are not reaching out to other cultures. We need to be more
culturally sensitive.

Members

I had trouble with the god thing. I changed the words to
make it more comfortable to me. 2 1/2 yrs sober I went
back to school took religious studies. Looked for my
higher power. I didn't do the changing, it was done for me.
I have a friend who is agnostic & had a great program.
The spirit is accepting. It would be good to have
a pamphlet for the professionals.

Members

Bill brought all the aspects together, M.D., psychiatrists,
religious teachers etc... I believe in God I derived from

(3)

Religion but I don't put that on others.

When AA formed. There was a stigma + fear of exposure.

We are a secret society. We do have some aspects of religion.

Member Past delegate

Bind my unity, recovery + service together tightly. My friends close to me don't know my beliefs in H.P. It is private. My spiritual experiences are doing dishes,

no expectations. Explain the steps not my concept of H.P. We have a mixed meeting in Studio City.

AA's can be reactionary when government makes changes.

Member Area 42

At airport in San Antonio, a guy very upset at the convention because there was an option to close the meeting with other than the Lords Prayer. AA at a crossroads need to look at being more inclusive. What about Muslims where it is unsafe? We appear to be a Christian fellowship. Men if we don't shut so.

Member

Same spiritual principles across religions. I agree we need to be more inclusive. This is an evolutionary process.

Member

Not what I say, what I do. "abandon myself utterly" to whatever I do. I don't need to articulate myself to you. I need to keep seeking what I can abandon myself to. "Move me or remove me," a prayer for me.