

The Pipeline

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BEING A PART OF

One of the greatest gifts I have received in sobriety is a sense of belonging to something. I was always the guy who was hiding in the shadows, skulking around the fringes of society. I was involved with a lot of things, and friends with many people, but I never actually gave myself fully to anything. After going through some in depth root cause analysis of my defects, it was quite plain to see that I have commitment issues. I am scared that if I commit to something, then fail at it, I will be looked poorly upon. Freedom from that fear has been a liberation that cannot be described in words. Now, I will not be so vain as to think that my defect has been completely removed. Those of you who know me are quite aware that I can be a perfectionist to an extreme, a clear manifestation of my defect, however, its progress not perfection.

When I first came into the rooms of Cocaine Anonymous, I wanted nothing to do with any of it. I was sitting there because someone else told me I had to, and I was always there five minutes late, and left as soon as I could get my little pink card signed. I will not bore you with the details, but it will suffice it to say that I could not put more than a few days, sometimes a few hours, of sobriety together. The funniest thing was; I could not understand why I couldn't stop drinking and using. I would say to myself, "I am going to the meetings, why isn't it working for me!?!". I had fallen into the trap where I thought doing the smallest amount of work would yield the greatest results. Going to meetings must be



coupled with several other things for me to allow God to work effectively in my life.

Part of that is allowing myself to become a part of the fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous. It is not a natural mode for me to involve myself in things, regardless of what they are; it makes me uncomfortable. Facing that fear was truly one of the hardest things I have done. I did see where my isolation was troublesome in my life, but I didn't see why I had to go to every function, be at every meeting, or always go out with people after meetings.

RELIEF OR RECOVERY?



*God grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
and Wisdom to know the difference*

Sometimes I still feel like this, until I ask myself one question, "Am I a member of Cocaine Anonymous?" Our third tradition tells me that I only need a desire to stop using cocaine and all other mind altering substances to qualify, but if I am not immersing myself in all three phases of my program, can I really say that my desire to stay clean and sober is there? Unity, Service, and Recovery have all become an indispensable part of my life. I have to participate in all aspects of each of these to remain teachable. If I abandon one or more, my time as a servant of God will soon come to an end.

Basically, it comes down to a few hard truths about myself. If I am late to a meeting, I am wrong; if I am not trying to serve my fellowship in some way, however infinitesimal, I am wrong; if I am not attending functions outside of meetings, I am wrong. By not doing these things, I am living in my worse character defect; I am being selfish and self-centered to an extreme. Today, I know what can happen when I act that way, remaining involved in the fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous will help me to remember tomorrow.

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