

commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honor thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:35-40 KJV: Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mark 12:28-33 KJV: And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: 33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Luke 10:25-28 KJV: And, behold , a certain lawyer stood up , and tempted him, saying , Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

Romans 13:8-10 KJV: Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly

comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 10
Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Galatians 5:14 KJV: For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

James 2:8 KJV: If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well.

BB p. 19 “After such an approach many take up their beds and walk again.”

Matthew 9:6 KJV: But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

Mark 2:9 KJV: Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say , Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?

Luke 5:24 KJV: But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

John 5:8-12 KJV: Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk

BB p. 151 “then would come ... the awful awakening to face the hideous Four Horsemen—
Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, Despair.”

The reference is to the New Testament, Revelation 6:1-8, where we see the Lamb opening the seven seals on the scroll which bears our judgment and condemnation by the heavenly standards of all that is holy and good and moral and responsible (what we call Good Orderly Direction in AA language). Four horsemen appear, and the horrors of the end of the world begin to take place.

Terror: the white horse brings being conquered and defeated.

Bewilderment: the red horse brings chaotic warfare and conflict to which we can find no solution.

Frustration: the black horse brings no money to buy food.

Despair: the rider of the pale horse is named Death.

In the middle ages, Death was portrayed as a skeleton in a black robe carrying a scythe. The Big Book's version of the Four Horsemen equates Death with Despair, because falling into total despair is the death of the alcoholic's soul.

Revelation 6:2-8 KJV: And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. 3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. 5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. 7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see . 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

SEE ALSO *Pass It On* pp. 175-177: Towns Hospital offered Bill Wilson a position as a paid therapist. Bill quickly convinced himself that it would be all right for him to take money for working with other alcoholics by quoting the biblical passage to himself: "The laborer is worthy of his hire." Lois and the New York AA group and their wives then had to convince him that he must not do this.

Luke 10:1-7 KJV: After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. 2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest. 3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by

alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in their congregations and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Keep your prayers simple, just talk to God

Matthew 6:5 And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the pagans do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9 Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread; 12 And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; 13 And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

We must make a total surrender to God, and quit being so fearful about material things

Matthew 6:19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

We must make a total surrender to God, and quit being so fearful about material things

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

**We must make a total surrender to God,
and quit being so fearful about material things**

25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith?

First Things First — One Day at a Time

Matthew 6:31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. 34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's own trouble be sufficient for the day.

**Don't take other people's inventory, just
keep my own side of the street swept clean**

Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.

**Don't take other people's inventory, just
keep my own side of the street swept clean**

Matthew 7:3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Every morning pray “Please keep me sober today”

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

The Golden Rule sums up every good moral and ethical rule ever written

You don't need hundreds of biblical rules — or hundreds of AA rules — all you need to remember is to treat other people the way you would want to be treated, if you were in their place. And remember that what we want most of all from other people, is that they cut us some slack sometimes if we make a mistake.

Matthew 7:12 Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Real spirituality bears fruit, false spirituality bears thorns

People who pretend to be religious and spiritual are lying, even if they talk about it all the time, if they do not treat their fellow human beings at all times with compassion, generosity, and forgiveness, expressed in continual concrete acts of kindness toward each of the other individuals around them.

Matthew 7:16 You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. 18 A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

True spirituality is to take care of the poor and helpless who have no one to defend them, and not to be dominated by money and other material things

James 2:1 My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "Have a seat here, please," while you say to the poor man, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, is it not they who drag you into court?

Faith without works is dead

THE LAW OF LIBERTY is the law which tells us to quit making lists of hundreds of rules so we can condemn other people for breaking them. The Law of Liberty is the law which tells us to give other people a break and allow them the right to be wrong and to make mistakes. The Law of Liberty is the law which commands us to perform works of mercy, kindness, generosity, and forgiveness to the poor and needy at all times.

Faith without works is only **THE FAITH OF A DEVIL**. The devils believe in God's existence and fear him, and know all the truths about God and heavenly things because they once lived in heaven. They were thrown down into hell because they refused to act the way God wanted them to.

James 2:12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgment. 14 What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. 18 But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.

The vices which destroy us: speaking words of Anger towards others

James 3:3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses that they may obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Look at the ships also; though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is an unrighteous world among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the cycle of nature, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by humankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brethren, this ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening fresh water and brackish? 12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The vices which destroy us: Jealousy and Ambition

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. 18 And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The vices which destroy us: Greed

James 4:1 What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? 2 You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war.

We must make a total surrender to God

James 4:4 Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

The vices which destroy us: Pride

James 4:6 "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

The divine punishment which awaits the greedy and wealthy: businessmen, the big landowners, and people in positions of great power

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. 4 Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. 5 You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have killed the Righteous One; he does not resist you.

The Sixth Step

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

panta stegēi — It always shields and protects,
panta pisteuei — always trusts,
panta elpizei — always hopes,
panta hypomenei — always stands firm and stays alive.

Whether prophecies lose their employment, or tongues stop, or knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures loses its employment—love never fails.

For we hold any knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures partially and we prophesy partially; when the whole and fully adult comes, the partial will lose its employment. When I was a baby, I jabbered like a baby, I thought like a baby, I reasoned like a baby; when I have become an adult, I will no longer employ a baby's ways.

For now we see a hint reflected like a riddle in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I hold my knowledge of how to interpret the riddles of the scriptures partially, then I will have direct conscious awareness, just as God has known me.

For the present, there remain FAITH, HOPE, LOVE—these three—but the greatest of these is love. Seek love!