## Step Seven– Week 1 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Read the COSA Step Seven: Working the COSA Seventh Step booklet/chapter up to the Voices.
- → Spend some time each day thinking about/meditating on the words of Step Seven. After several days of meditation, pick one word that stands out to you, and write about that word (any length, any style of writing).<sup>1</sup>
- $\rightarrow$  Continue your *Personal Craziness Index* (*PCI*)<sup>2</sup> that you started in Step Six.
- → Using the worksheet Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week One, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer the questions for each defect you would like to give to Higher Power (HP). See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 2 pages 2–3 COSA Zoom Room website.

We will continue this process, highlighting different character defects each week throughout Step Seven.

Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> South Bay Step Group by Amy MJ and Brian T

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages ix-xix from "It has been more... through ... life and relationship."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading. See Step Study Resources on the <u>COSA</u> <u>Zoom Room</u> website for ordering information.

## Optional

→ This is a great resource for understanding our character defects, especially those we hide, ignore, or gloss over.

*Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading. See Step Study Resources on the <u>COSA Zoom Room</u> website for ordering information.

See this resource for specific character defects, page numbers, and Kindle keywords. <u>Step 7 CZR Step</u> <u>Study Pia Mellody Resource List</u>

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 2 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Read the following COSA Voices from the COSA Step Seven: Working the COSA Seventh Step booklet/chapter: Claudia, Betsy, and at least one other.
- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>3</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Two, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 3 pages 4–5 COSA Zoom Room website.

We will continue this process, highlighting different character defects each week throughout Step Seven.

#### Please read and answer the questions below.

These questions are prompts to help you recognize your thinking and behavior in relation to this step. What matters most is how these concepts relate to your life. Be prepared to share your answers with your group.

- → Have you tried to remove your defects in the past by working harder, hiding them, or otherwise relying on your own power?<sup>4</sup>
- → Do you now feel willing to turn this work over to your Higher Power instead, or do you feel resistant or fearful? If you do not feel willing, what seems to be holding you back? Sometimes, our defects can be assets taken to an extreme (e.g., kindness or compassion taken to an extreme could be caretaking).
- → Again, look at your most significant defect. What assets might it be hiding?<sup>5</sup> Repeat for each of your defects, especially those you struggle with the most.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

#### Forever Essential Assignments

It is important for our own recoveries to attend and contact other COSAs. It is recommended for the entire year-long step study. It helps us embrace the "we" part of our fellowship.

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

## Recommended

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 10-20 from "Let's take a look at Charlie's... through ...simply act "as if."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading. See Step Study Resources on the <u>COSA</u> <u>Zoom Room</u> website for ordering information.

## Optional

→ Breaking Free and Facing Codependence (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading. See Step Study Resources on the <u>COSA Zoom Room</u> website for ordering information.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 3 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

## **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Choose at least three questions to answer from the COSA Step Seven: Working the COSA Seventh Step booklet. The questions follow the COSA Voices. Remember, the ones that you want to skip are likely ones that you need to answer.
- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>6</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Three, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 4 page 6–7 COSA Zoom Room website.

We will continue this process, highlighting different character defects each week throughout Step Seven.

#### Please answer the question below.

→ Often, our defects can hold us back from accurately appreciating and embracing our assets. As you look at your Step Four inventories, what defects do you think might be hindering you from fully recognizing or embracing your assets?<sup>7</sup>

#### Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 20-31 from "As we discussed, acting... through ...and less, and better."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 4 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

## **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>8</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Four, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 5 page 8–9 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please answer the question below.

- → Refer back to your "God is/is not" lists from Step Two and answer the following questions.
- → What changes would you make to your list now?
- → Does the way you understand Higher Power (God) have any relationship to your assets and defects?
- → How does it relate to your willingness to let go of your defects?<sup>9</sup>

#### Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 31-40 from "Judith shares a... through ...spiritual growth in our lives."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 5 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

#### **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>10</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Five, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 6 page 10–11 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please answer the question below.

→ In what ways are you/are you not trusting your Higher Power as you look at letting go of your character defects? If you are struggling, what can help the process?

#### Forever Essential Assignments

It is important for our own recoveries to attend and contact other COSAs. It is recommended for the entire year-long step study. It helps us embrace the "we" part of our fellowship.

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

## Recommended

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 40-51 from "lives. The next defect to examine... through ...burned in the process."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 6 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

#### **Essential**

#### Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>11</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Six, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 7 page 12–13 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please read and answer the questions below.

→ What is most important or helpful for you to share about your work on this Step? (Keep in mind that what is most important or helpful is often what you are most ashamed of or fearful about sharing.) Consider sharing this at a COSA meeting as well.

#### Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 51-62 from "Let's take a look at Joe's story... through...and growing by asking."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 7 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>12</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Seven, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 8 pages 14–15 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please read and answer the questions below.

- → If it is up to your Higher Power to remove your defects, what is your part in working this Step? What actions can you take?
- → Who is in charge of when and how this happens?<sup>13</sup>

Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 62-70 from "Another part of humility... through ...authors of A Program for You."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 8 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>14</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Eight, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 9 pages 16–17 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please read and answer the questions below.<sup>15</sup>

- → What does humility mean?
- → How can you bring humility to this Step?
- → Is there anything about your understanding of what it means to "humbly ask" that is holding you back?

Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 71-79 from "Step Seven and Everyday Life... through ...help by asking."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 9 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

- → Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI)<sup>16</sup>
- → Using the Step Seven Character Defects to Give to Higher Power Week Nine, choose your top three to five defects of character that you want your Higher Power to remove. You may refer to your completed Assets and Liabilities Checklist Worksheet 2 from Step Four and your Inner/Red Circles diagram, also from Step Four, on the COSA Zoom Room website. Answer each of the questions for each defect you would like to give to HP. See Step Study→Step Seven→Step Seven Worksheets→Worksheet 10 page 18–19 COSA Zoom Room website.

#### Please read and answer the questions below.

The Seventh Step Prayer:

"My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding."

- → Does this prayer feel comfortable to you?
- → If not, what are the parts that are difficult for you?
- → What kind of prayer would better help you to take this Step?<sup>17</sup>
- → Next week, we will have a prompt to pray this prayer or another that we write ourselves.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

#### Forever Essential Assignments

It is important for our own recoveries to attend and contact other COSAs. It is recommended for the entire year-long step study. It helps us embrace the "we" part of our fellowship.

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- → Contact at least one COSA

#### Recommended

- → Please read and annotate. Drop the Rock: Removing Character Defects Steps Six and Seven pages 79-91 from "Gail relates to us... through the end of the book."
- → Based on the above reading, come prepared to share what was important to you and areas you recognize need to change in your own life based on the assigned reading.
- → Read and Highlight <u>Chapter 6</u> from the *Big Book* | Alcoholics Anonymous pp. 75–76 from "When we decide..." through "...completed Step Seven"

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.

## Step 7 – Week 10 of 10

Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.

### **Essential**

Before We Begin — The Set-Aside Prayer

God, please set aside everything that I think I know about myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and you, for an open mind, and a new experience of myself, my brokenness, the Twelve Steps and especially you.

→ Continue your Personal Craziness Index (PCI).<sup>18</sup>

#### Please read and answer the questions below.

- → Were there any questions or concepts you struggled with, found confusing, or felt stuck?<sup>19</sup>
- → Pray the Seventh Step Prayer.
- → Write your own personalized Seventh Step Prayer. If you are willing, share in your group chat.

#### Forever Essential Assignments

- → Attend at least one COSA meeting in addition to this Step Study
- ➔ Contact at least one COSA

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The Gentle Path Through the Twelve Steps by Patrick Carnes Pages 243-255

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> South Bay Step Group - Amy MJ & Brian T

**Story In Three Sentences**.<sup>20</sup> The process for the Step Seven story is slightly different than other steps. First, list your most troublesome/challenging spiritual shortcomings. Rank them in order of their seriousness/difficulty.

Spiritual Shortcomings

- Lack of Humility (Pride)
- Lack of Generosity (Greed)
- Lack of Purity of Intention (Lust)
- Lack of a Loving Attitude (Anger)
- Lack of Discipline (Gluttony)
- Lack of Gratitude (Envy)
- Lack of Action (Sloth)
- → Sentence 1: The Story Write out (in one sentence) your challenges in humbly asking God to remove your shortcomings.
- → Sentence 2: Write out (in one sentence) what you did that you wish you had either not done or done differently.
- → Sentence 3: Write out what would have been a better choice and/or choose to do in the future when that situation repeats itself.

#### Example:

#### Spiritual Shortcomings

- Lack of Humility (Pride) (#1)
- Lack of Generosity (Greed)
- Lack of Purity of Intention (Lust)
- Lack of a Loving Attitude (Anger) (#2)
- Lack of Discipline (Gluttony)
- Lack of Gratitude (Envy) (#3)
- Lack of Action (Sloth)
- The Story: I too easily criticize others, believing that it makes me look better.
- What do you wish you had either not done or done differently? I wish I had not allowed my pride to take over, falsely making me believe that I would look better than the person I criticized.
- What would have been a better choice? I need to speak (and think) only words that build up others, humbly ask God to remove my pride, and pray the Seventh Step Prayer

**My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad**. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength as I go out from here to do your bidding. Amen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Dennis F - website

## Optional

→ Continue to work through character defects in *Breaking Free* and *Facing Codependence* (both books by Pia Mellody). It is recommended that these be used to help identify character defects more clearly. It is suggested to pick 2-3 defects per week and answer the questions that follow the reading.

- → Read back issues of the COSA <u>Balance Newsletter</u>. The month of publication usually has a reading about the Step of that month included.
- → If you happen to have other Step literature at home (S-Anon, Al-Anon, 12 & 12, Gentle Path, ACA, Codependents' Guide, etc.) and are interested in exploring it, feel free to read and think about what these resources have to say about this Step.