

## Tradition Seven

### 7. Every Overcomers Outreach group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Independence – we pay our bills so that we are not reliant on anything other than God.

*An OO group should be supported solely by its membership, thus maintaining autonomy and preserving the identity and primary purpose of Overcomers Outreach.*

Practice of this tradition indicates that the group is responsible for itself. To be self-supporting is more than monetary in nature. The meeting room needs to be set up and cleaned up. Literature should be made available and rent or other expenses met. Most importantly, a commitment to support one another is made by members consistently showing up and participating. The financial needs of the group should be met by voluntary contributions from the members, thus adding to the group's identity and unity, while also guarding against outside requirements, agendas or motives that may divert the group from its primary purpose. As members unite in bearing the responsibility for the operation of the group, we become self-supporting spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Just as the group meets its obligations, the individual learns responsibility. The blessing of service begins to generate new levels of gratitude, and giving in anonymity builds humility. By declining

outside contributions, we grow in faith, which glorifies God, and we become self-supporting as we take direction from God. We recognize that the contributions of time, energy, and participation by others are equally important contributions to the benefit of the group. Through fulfillment of our personal commitment to the group, our integrity grows. As we see the simple needs of our group met, our cooperation with others will continue to grow in all areas of our lives.

*We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."*

2 Thessalonians 3: 9-10

### Unity

When each of us gives as we can, we receive a feeling of "being a part of" the group, and we experience a sense of fulfillment and purpose as we see our contributions being put to use for the good of the group. Our group can feel "part of" the body of the whole fellowship as well by contributing to the Central Office, which in turn, serves the groups worldwide.

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. –*

Romans 12:4-5

### Service

Giving is the basis of service (or help). Whether it is time, attention, money, or materials, our gifts carry our message to those suffering as we once suffered. Our 12<sup>th</sup> step work is enhanced by the value of self-support through our own contributions – how blessed we are to be able to give to others.

*Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. – Deuteronomy 25:4*

### Faith

As our "fear of economic insecurity" is replaced by faith in God's providence, giving becomes an act of trust and the concern for the welfare of others takes the place of our selfish ambitions.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. –*

1 Timothy 6:18-19

### Humility

Doing our part, working to please God rather than for recognition, is our way of living life as it is – a gift of God – and we live happy, joyous, and free!

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Galatians 5:13-14

## Sharing

We can become united in service, in worship, and in our love for one another whenever we reach out to share our experience, strength, and hope with others. We do this face to face at meetings and group activities. People find our meetings by word of mouth, through literature, online, or phone referrals. The donations to the Central office from both individuals and the groups make much of this outreach possible.

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. - Acts 4:32*

## Gratitude

We give back to make sure that the groups will continue to be there for newcomers, that they may find help as we have found help.

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. - Romans 5:6*

## Responsibility

Providing literature, meeting supplies, information for new groups, the current online meeting directory, and the main website are essential services, but the greatest service we can render is to "be there" when that broken, hopeless child of God has the courage to reach out and ask for help. It is our responsibility to share our hope, faith, and love, as we have received in Him.

*... for the worker deserves his wages.*  
Luke 10:7

**Overcomers Outreach** uses the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Holy Bible to discover the wisdom of God and apply His teachings to our daily lives. We claim Jesus Christ as our "higher power" and share our trials and victories with one another in a confidential and secure environment. We meet weekly in loving support of one another, not as a substitute for, but rather a supplement to other 12 step groups. We are non-professional and non-profit, and we welcome anyone who is not opposed to our general method of recovery, whatever his or her presenting problem.

The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous teach us how to apply principles of living as God would have us live. First, we learn the principles by "working" the steps, then apply these same principles to our daily walk.

*For more information, or to find a meeting, contact us:*

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**BETWEEN  
12 STEP RECOVERY GROUPS  
AND CHURCHES  
OF ALL DENOMINATIONS**



## 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition



## Why We Give

A Christ Centered 12-Step Recovery Group addressing addictions and those affected by them