

Are You Ready To Have God Get You Ready? 6th & 7th Step - Lesson 1

6th Step: We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

How do you become “entirely ready” to have God come to you to do his work in you? Do you have to put off recovery or anything else about life with God until you’re sure you have a good attitude about it?

Look at Luke’s account about John the Baptist getting people ready for the Messiah’s coming:

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.' " (Luke 3:2-6)

Here’s a helpful hint for reading the Bible: whenever you read something that gets you feeling scared or pressured or ashamed or hopeless, *keep reading*. Because God’s going to take the fear and shame and pressure away from you and give you some real hope. Look at how that works here: First it says, “Prepare the way for the Lord” (Pressure! Despair!), and then it says, “Every valley *shall be* filled in” (No pressure! It’s just plain *gonna* happen!).

God makes you aware that changes need to happen. But he doesn’t just back off then and ask, “So what are you going to do about it?” Look at what it says in Philippians: **He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus** (Philippians 1:6), and **it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose** (Philippians 2:13).

God started something good in you when he made you aware of your problem, and he’s going to finish that good work by making you willing and able to change.

There’s a saying in AA: Maybe you’re not “willing” yet, but are you willing to become willing?

- Where do you see “valleys” (having too low an opinion of yourself), “mountains” (having too high an opinion of yourself), “crooked roads” (dishonesty and hypocrisy) or “rough ways” (being stuck in ruts) in yourself?
- How have you seen God not only give you awareness of the problem, but also willingness and ability to do something about it?
- Jesus actually did the real work of getting you ready for God long before you were even born, by dying for your forgiveness. How does that change your approach to your problems?