

## The (Unofficial) Principles of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

Principles in **bold** lettering indicates an unofficial “common consensus” among members for spiritual principles of the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (with two tied). There is no formal set of principles, nor any sanctioned principles themselves. While many of the above are indeed referenced in both *Alcoholics Anonymous* (the “Big Book”) and *The Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions* (the “Twelve and Twelve”), no list of principles has ever been formalized or published by A.A.W.S. In other words, principles are a subjective preference: use what works for you.

Step	Spiritual Principle(s)
Step 1	Acceptance, <b>Honesty</b> , Honesty & Surrender, Self-Honesty, Surrender, Unity
Step 2	Belief, Faith, Grow Along Spiritual Lines, <b>Hope</b> , Open-Mindedness
Step 3	Action, <b>Faith</b> , Faith & Commitment, Surrender, Trust, Surrender & Trust
Step 4	<b>Courage</b> , Courage & Diligence, Honesty
Step 5	Courage, <b>Integrity</b> , Truth & Integrity
Step 6	Acceptance & Growth, <b>Willingness</b>
Step 7	<b>Humility</b>
Step 8	<b>Forgiveness</b> , <b>Brotherly Love</b> (tie), Love, Justice & Brotherly Love, Self-Discipline
Step 9	Brotherly Love, <b>Discipline</b> , <b>Freedom</b> , Good Judgement & Self-Discipline, Love for Others, Love & Tolerance, Justice, Responsibility
Step 10	<b>Perseverance</b> , Patience & Perseverance, Perseverance & Vigilance
Step 11	Awareness, Awareness & Belief, Longing & Need, Patience, Open-Mindedness, Spirituality, <b>Spiritual Awareness</b>
Step 12	Charity & Love, Gratitude & Serenity, Love & Service, <b>Service</b>

It is worth noting that as an exception to all the variants above is Step Seven’s singularly found principle of “**humility**,” which is considered by many to be the foundational principle for all the steps as well as the Alcoholics Anonymous program itself.

“Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.’s Twelve Steps.”

p. 70, *The Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions*