

In the chapter "We Agnostics" in the Big Book, there are two groups of people mentioned. Which one more closely describes your CURRENT experience?

1 - (page 50-51) "Here are thousands of men and women, worldly indeed. They flatly declare that since they have (1) come to believe in a Power greater than themselves (Step 2), (2) to take a certain attitude toward that Power (Step 3), and (3) to do certain simple things (Steps 4 through 12), there has been a revolutionary change in their way of living and thinking. In the face of collapse and despair, in the face of the total failure of their human resources (Step 1), they found that a new power, peace, happiness, and sense of direction flowed into them. This happened soon after they (4) wholeheartedly met a few simple requirements (the Twelve Steps). Once confused and baffled by the seeming futility of existence, they show the underlying reasons why they were making heavy going of life. Leaving aside the drink question, they tell why living was so unsatisfactory. They show how the change came over them. When many hundreds of people (5) are able to say that the consciousness of the Presence of God is today the most important fact of their lives, they present a powerful reason why one should have faith." (This is also called living in the solution.)

2 - (page 52) "We were having trouble with personal relationships, we couldn't control our emotional natures, we were a prey to misery and depression, we couldn't make a living (which includes not being able to make a successful life), we had a feeling of uselessness, we were full of fear, we were unhappy, we couldn't seem to be of real help to other people." (These are also called the bedevilments, which means, "to torment maliciously". They are the results of living a self-centered life, drinking or not, and describes the inner unmanageability mentioned in Step One. They are the mental state that precedes the first drink and are the result of untreated alcoholism, whether we are drinking or not. They are the root of the problem.)