

Is it time for the Steps?

From Miami, Fla.:

"Don't Sell the Newcomer Short!" (March Grapevine) was the balm I needed for a sore spot. It seemed nobody in my group thought a *new* person should start working the Steps (except Step One). At least, what I heard was: "Just keep the plug in the jug—make meetings—and things will get better." (Things couldn't have been worse!) This classic still grates on me: "You're not ready for the Steps yet—wait till your head clears" (a month for every year I drank?), and on and on.

Well, I worked the Steps early in spite of all this advice. And guess what? It kept me sober then, and it keeps me sober today. I took them in order. How well I remember the day I took the Fifth (the first time). I didn't tell anyone, because I felt a twinge of guilt—like I was sneaking off to do something I shouldn't.



Then, I returned home, where I could be quiet and review what I had done. I was delighted. Now, I could look the world in the eye. I began to feel the nearness of our Creator.

"The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared" (Big Book, page 75) did come strongly!

I'm glad I followed the directions Bill gave in his recipe for sobriety. The things he said would happen did happen to me.

*E. C.*