

The Heart of Step Nine

Step 9 is where willingness becomes action.

It is the sacred work of repairing what we have broken.

“If you owe people anything, give it to them.”

Romans 13:7

Amends are not about fixing the past — they are about honoring the truth and choosing healing.

Reflection:

- What amends feel most urgent?
- What amends feel most frightening?
- What outcome am I afraid of?

Prayer

God, go before me.

Give me courage to speak truth, humility to take responsibility, and grace to honor those I have harmed.

Guide my words, steady my heart, and let Your healing flow through every step.

*In Jesus name I pray,
Amen.*

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STEP NINE

MAKING AMENDS

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

Key Scripture:

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”

Luke 19:8-9

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

Romans 12:17

²⁷ Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.

Proverbs 3:27

A simple guide to understanding Step 9 through the lens of courage, honesty, and relational repair.

1. The Courage to Make Amends

Step 9 requires courage, humility, and discernment.

It is not about forcing reconciliation — it is about taking responsibility.

Making amends means:

- Owning the harm without excuses.
- Offering restitution where appropriate.
- Respecting boundaries.
- Trusting God with the outcome

Key Idea:

Amends are about responsibility, not results.

Self Inventory:

Check any that apply:

- I fear the reaction of others.
- I want to control the outcome.
- I feel guilt or shame.
- I'm unsure how to approach certain amends.
- I want to make things right.

Reflection:

- What amends is God inviting you to begin?
- What support do you need?

2. God's Heart for Restoration

"If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, 'Come back tomorrow.'"

Proverbs 3:27

God delights in restoration.

He empowers us to take steps toward healing.

Key Idea:

God strengthens those who seek peace.

Scripture Engagement:

Read Luke 19:1-10 and Romans 12:9-21.

Underline any words that speak to restitution and peace.

Reflection:

- Where do you see God opening doors for healing?
- What restoration do you long for?

3. Walking Out Step Nine

Amends require wisdom, timing, and prayer.

Healthy amends look like:

- Speaking truth with humility.
- Respecting the other person's response.
- Making restitution when appropriate.
- Avoiding harm to self or others.
- Trusting God with the outcome.

Key Idea:

Your responsibility is obedience — not the result.

Willingness Inventory:

Rate 1-5:

- ___ I am ready to make amends.
- ___ I trust God with the outcome.
- ___ I am willing to take responsibility.
- ___ I am open to God's timing.
- ___ I desire healing over avoidance.

Reflection:

- What fears do you need to surrender?
- What amends can you begin preparing today?
- Who can walk with you through this step?