

# Multi person 5<sup>th</sup> step agreement

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## Overview

This is a spiritual compact between the person presenting the 5<sup>th</sup> step and the persons receiving the inventory. It is meant to be a specific agreement among parties outlining the responsibilities of both. If you are unwilling to agree to these, refrain from participation. It will help no one, could hurt someone else and will hurt you.

## Receiving

If hearing a 5<sup>th</sup> step from someone you don't sponsor, you need to adhere to the spiritual compact that a sponsor sponsored relationship implicitly has.

You are here to be of service to another human being in the most intimate of ways, is it possible that you must now agree to a higher standard than you have in the past? If so, are you willing to do so with complete abandon? If the honest answer is no, then read no further and let this opportunity pass. If the answer is yes, then understand each bullet point in your Receiving section must also be true or else you cannot do this.

- Everything said must be held in the strictest confidence never to be repeated to anyone else. This includes your sponsor. This also means others who are a part of this process. If your best AA bud listens at 11 AM and you at 2, you don't go for coffee and compare notes. You never speak of it. Never means never. If this is unclear, then let this opportunity pass.
- You must ask if they are willing to entertain questions. If so, make them brief and to the point. You are not to enter into a rambling monologue. It is not about you.
- You must ask if they want to hear your experience as it relates to inventory items. If they do, keep them succinct, to the point and salient. See the above if you have questions.
- If they have said no to the above two questions you must ask if they wish you to be silent. If they wish you to be silent, adhere to their wishes.
- You must arrive on time and be courteous to those who come before by not arriving early and courteous to those who are scheduled after you, do not cause this to go over through your pontification.
- Arrive with God and no one else. If you cannot transport yourself to the allotted location and at the allotted time and you cannot get a ride with someone who is scheduled to participate, you must get prior approval from the presenter as you are now involving someone else.
- You are not to tell others you are doing this with so and so. It is private. So and so can talk about it, but they can't mention you. You can mention you have done it, but can't mention with whom.
- Do not bring in a device that makes noise. Do not have your phone on, don't silence it, leave it in the car, or turn it completely off. There is nothing you can possibly be doing that is more

important than this at this moment. If a loved one is in the hospital and sick and you are waiting for a call, do not take the commitment. If work needs may be a problem, you have to make a decision as to which is more important. No texting, no beeping watches, no distractions.

- If you owe an amends to the presenter now is not the time to mention it. You should have done it before now. This is their time. You are not to make time or schedule when you can. This is not about you.
- You are not the most important person in the room.

You must deliver to the presenter your verbal guarantee that you will do the entire above, one by one. This is after you cover the question about whether they wish to hear your comments, questions or experience. Then offer this, "Thank you for the honor and trust, I promise to keep this in strictest confidence, I promise to spare the time, I promise to listen without judgment, I promise to be here for you, (I won't interject with experience or questions)/(I will ask questions and offer my experience as God directs me). I am here for you and I come with God." This must be done. It must be agreed and you must mean it with all your heart. Do not proceed if you have not read aloud the offer.

## Presenting

If the receiver of your inventory is sitting across from you, and has made the offer, what are you to do? Are you ready to bring this person into your heart? If you are unwilling at this point to accept their offer then you must admit your reluctance and nothing further can be accomplished. If you are willing, verbally accept their offer, make the compact.

If you are presenting a 5<sup>th</sup> step to others, it is important to do so frankly free of fear. Those receiving your 5<sup>th</sup> step are there for you. Complete abandon to God and a freedom from fear will allow you to be completely honest with each one. You must be completely honest or the opportunity has been squandered. Be concise in your delivery, color not your inventory lest the time is wasted clearing up the subsequent confusion. If you allow someone receiving your 5<sup>th</sup> step to ask questions or share experience, you are to listen in quiet contemplation of the gift God has delivered. You are not to defend or backtrack if you feel slighted or confused. If your presentation is from the heart, is solely the truth and is God directed, nothing can be wrong or inappropriate. You are here to clear away the wreckage, humble yourself before God, yourself and another.

This is a 5<sup>th</sup> step not a 9<sup>th</sup> step if you owe someone an amends, now is not the time, later today maybe and quite possibly tomorrow will be, but share the harm freely knowing that it is a breath away from being amended.

- I sit before you completely prepared to make a full confession of my shortcomings.
- My writings are clear and concise and encompass all God has directed me to bring today.
- I will deliver to you the inventory as my sponsor has directed me.
- I will not color it, nor will I shape it to suit who I think you are.
- I agree to withhold nothing.
- I agree not to explain but to deliver the unvarnished truth as God already knows it.

- I will honor your time by not wasting it.
- I will be complete in my delivery.
- I trust you.
- I will never speak to anyone of anything shared in this spiritual time.
- I will be humbly grateful for the time you have offered, forever.

Read each bullet point out loud once the receiver has agreed to this compact and you have accepted their offer. Look the other in the eye and read each one from the heart. Each and everyone is a commitment from you. This is your commitment to God, yourself and them. If you honestly take this step withholding nothing, you are entering the Sunlight of the Spirit. If you cannot agree to the above, you are not ready and you will need to revisit the first step.

Fear not, what awaits this journey is greater than anything we could have imagined.