This step invites us to honestly assess our readiness to live AS our authentic spiritual self.

The original wording of Step 6 reads: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

Many of us likely recoil at the term “defects of character” and the suggestion that God is something or someone outside ourselves that removes things from us. Perhaps exploring and reframing our understanding of words and concepts provides us with a more effective approach than resistance and negation.

Let’s start with “defect”:

The Online Etymology Dictionary offers:

[**defect (n.)**](https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=defect) :

early 15th century, "want or lack of anything," especially lack of something essential to perfection or completeness. From Old French ‘defect’ and directly from Latin ‘defectus’ meaning "failure, revolt, falling away"

[**defect (v.)**](https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=defect)

1570s, "to hurt, to damage;"

1580s, "fail, to become deficient";

1590s, "to desert, revolt," from Latin ‘defectus’.

**TALK NOTES:**

Let’s explore “character”:

 The [Online Etymology Dictionary](https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=character) offers:

from Greek *kharaktēr* "engraved mark," also "symbol or imprint on the soul,"

The meaning of Greek *kharaktēr* was extended in Hellenistic times by metaphor to "a defining quality, individual feature." In English, the meaning "sum of qualities that define a person or thing and distinguish it from another" is from 1640s.

The [Fillmore Faith Online Metaphysical Dictionary](https://www.truthunity.net/rw/character#:~:text=of%20character%20(rw)-,Metaphysical%20meaning%20of%20character%20(rw),only%20enduring%20foundation%20of%20character.) offers:

Character: character, spiritual--The true estimate of man's qualities. Character building is ever from within outward. Spiritual discernment of the reality of man's origin and being in God is the only enduring foundation of character.

**TALK NOTES:**

Invitation to Explore… write your unfiltered response to each of the prompts below.

* What if our defects of character are simply areas where we’re unaware of our essential perfection and completeness?
* What if our defects of character are simply areas where we’ve deserted or revolted against our essential perfection and completeness?
* What if our character defects are simply inaccurate defining qualities that we’ve assigned to ourselves and others?
* What if our character defects are simply habits of belief and behavior that mentally separate us from the reality of our origin, the spiritual foundation of our character?