



TESTIMONY: ALCOHOLISM, COMPULSIVE GAMBLING AND OVER EATING

Hi, my name is Phil; I am a Christian believer who struggles with Alcoholism, Compulsive Gambling, and over eating.

For 31 years I was a closeted, alcoholic Christian and for the last 3 years, of the 31, I was a compulsive gambler. It's an understatement to say I was going down a disastrous road.

Fortunately, by the Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, today, I celebrate 4 years, 9 months, of sobriety from alcohol, and compulsive gambling, and I PRAISE God for what has happened. Over 4 years without Alcohol and Gambling, I still cannot believe IT!! I have lost approx 35 lbs from my highest weight, and am still working on losing more.

During the fall of 2003, (after over 1 year of sobriety), I received a calling from God to get involved in a program that would help other people break their alcoholic addiction. Afterwards, while I was performing searches on the internet, I came across the Celebrate Recovery Program.

I came to realize that Celebrate Recovery is not just a program for alcoholics & drug addicts. It's a Christ centered ministry for all of us who have a hurt, habit, or hang-up that prevents us from being what God would have us to be. Celebrate Recovery provides hope, and a pathway to develop a relationship with our higher power, Jesus Christ, and experience healing through a 8 principle, 12 step, Christ-centered program.

Our ministry is conducted in a SAFE place: where each week we repeat the following **“Who** you see here, **What** you hear here, **When** you leave here, stays here, **Hear Hear!!**

Joy vs. Despair, Trust vs. Fear, and genuine, unconditional Acceptance, are some of the many rewards we each receive from being involved Celebrate Recovery.

All of us in Celebrate Recovery are grateful that the leadership of FSBC, is supporting this non-denominational, Christ-centered ministry. We started our CR ministry on Friday night, January 7, 2005 w/16 people.

Through prayer, and following God's guidance and direction, the CR ministry, after 134 continuous Friday nights, has “touched” approx 375 people (49% women, 51% men). We now average 47 per Friday night.

Also, I would encourage you to tell family, friends, and fellow church members about this life changing ministry. It has been said by many “God Never Wastes a Hurt”. If someone you know needs this program, please bring ‘em. The front door is very heavy for the first timer, who tries to come alone.

In conclusion, Thank You, for letting me share this short testimony about God's Grace and infinite Mercy.