

# Testimonial

## Generational Curse - Alcoholism

My name is Cindy, and I went through the first Restoring Lives conference. There was about 50 of us who attended. I'm originally from Cincinnati, I grew up here. I attended a Presbyterian church growing up and got saved in a Baptist Church, and then got swept into the Pentecostal storefront church in downtown Cincinnati for about six months. I've had the whole gamut of church life. I then attended a non-denominational church, met my husband, and have now been a Christian for thirty something years now.

I was a hair dresser for thirty of those years and had an opportunity to share a lot with people and listen to all their problems. Personally, I grew up in a single parent household. My parents divorced when I was 7 years old. My Dad was an alcoholic. As a Christian, you reflect and try to find out what's going on in your family, pray all those prayers and ask God why and you see patterns of behavior and the family that would go right down through the family tree and I could never understand how that all worked. When I went to the conference, it was like all those questions started getting answered. I started understanding how Satan just ravaged my family tree with the same curses that went from one generation to the other.

As a Christian, I knew I was not supposed to be angry. I thought I wasn't angry at anyone. Because of what they were teaching, I said "okay, I'm going to initiate this, I'm verbally going to say these things" even though in my heart I didn't always feel like it was an issue, but because I wanted to make sure that all the T's were crossed and all the I's were dotted, I didn't want to leave any windows open for the enemy to attach itself to my life, so I would do anything. I wanted to get as clean and close to God as I could. So I went through the conference and did everything, and on the last day when we had ministry, I confessed a lot of things to the small group that I was with, that I had never shared with another living soul.

It was very intimate and very hard, but it was really the avalanche of weight that had been on me for so long. Once I got it out, I really walked into new freedom and liberty, like I didn't know that was what was holding me back, but when you hear this teaching, you realize that all those secrets, your family secrets, personal secrets, whatever kind of stuff the enemy tells you not to say that to people or they'll reject you or they'll think



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you're not a good Christian. When I realized that's really the way to get free by being transparent and by just being who you are or that God died for that stuff, and that He sent His son, if you can just get it out in the open, you can help someone else with the thing you've struggled with. That's been the most powerful thing that I've seen. The transparency that's come out of all these people that we can sit around and talk about the goofy, weird, creepy stuff that bugs us, and we'll just hug each other, love on them and pray for them.

God is so faithful to knit our hearts together and give us the strength and compassion to be there for one another. That is what the body of Christ is supposed to be like. For so many years we always thought we had to be a certain way, look a certain way, talk a certain way, and it's given me new liberty. One of the things I really got freed of was bitterness, but the thing I didn't really look at was how the Bible says to love God, yourself and others, I always forgot the 'myself' part. I always worked on others, and I felt I always loved God, but didn't know I had issues with myself. I never had a relationship with myself like that. It's kind of odd, but that was a real breakthrough for me, and it helped me to realize that I needed to love myself even as I loved others and God. It's just the tip of the iceberg.



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