



A work of the churches of Christ

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## **What Is A Recovery Program?**

When we established our Board of Directors in Alabama, someone asked, “What do we call the men?” Patients? Clients? I answered “Program Members.” This is because they are members of the Project Rescue Recovery Program.

Transition Houses, Half-way Houses, Vocational Centers, and Shelters help a lot of people. Project Rescue goes much further than these efforts, because we are a recovery program! We provide food and shelter, but our primary objective is to restore sin sick souls.

**What is a recovery program?** At Project Rescue we believe the Bible lays out a program of recovery for every kind of spiritual sickness.

The Twelve Step recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous helps many. This is because their steps are principles borrowed from the Bible!

When I was in prison in 1986, those 12-steps led me to the Highest Power and the Biggest Book!

The recovery program of Project Rescue is based on the program I worked in prison for two and a half years after I obeyed the Gospel. It was:

1. Pray
2. Read the Bible
3. Study the Bible
4. Do the Bible
5. Teach the Bible



I have found the whole Bible to be a program to inherit happiness (“blessed”) in this life and heaven in the next! Pray, read, study, do, and teach the Word of God is the simplest way to explain the Project Rescue recovery program.

An addicted man (“overtaken”) needs a minister to guide him through his recovery program: **“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one...” Galatians 6:1**

Timothy must have ministered to many struggling with addictions: **“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those . . . that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26**

The Apostle Paul described a program of recovery for Timothy to teach those who had “given themselves over” (4:19) to various addictive sins. Here is the Ephesians chapter 4 recovery program:

## **Stopping the evil activities comes first:**

- 1. “...Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” (4:22)**
- 2. “Let him who stole steal no longer...” (4:28)**
- 3. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth...” (4:29)**
- 4. “Put away lying...” (4:25)**
- 5. “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you...” (4:31)**



## **Starting the good activities is just as important:**

- 1. “...Be renewed in the spirit of your mind (4:23)**
- 2. “...Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” (4:24)**
- 3. “Speak the truth” (4:25)**
- 4. “...Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.” (4:32)**

Following these spiritual principles laid out in Ephesians 4 will promote spiritual power to overcome any addiction!

We are blessed to have 4 Gospel preachers and a Ministerial Counselor onsite to teach our 20 program members how to work their Ephesians chapter four recovery program.

In their first few months, members have a highly structured schedule:



<b>7:25am</b>	15 minute devotional
<b>8am</b>	Bible class
<b>9am – 12</b>	1-on-1 Bible session & work on the grounds
<b>1pm</b>	Bible class
<b>3:30</b>	Bible class
<b>4pm - 6pm</b>	1-on-1 Bible session & work on the grounds
<b>7pm</b>	Bible class

**Members also attend all Beltline church of Christ worship services and classes.**

Men who have fallen deep into addictions need to be in a protective environment for 1-year. At first our program is highly restrictive (no cash, restricted phone, restricted travel). Then, slowly, freedoms are given. This is to see if they can handle them and not relapse.

This spiritual part of the Project Rescue recovery program is the most important. However Ephesians 4:28 is also essential to a man's recovery program: **"...Let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."**

This is why we help a man to find a job he loves, so he can make good money, in order to become financially independent of his family:

1. Having his own bank account
2. Driving his own car.
3. Saving for his own place to live.
4. Supporting his family.
5. Contributing to the Lord's church!



It is our prayer and hope that when a man finds a job, he will continue the spiritual side of his program. Sadly, though, when some men find a job they love, they become addicted to it and abandon their spirituality. This man will miss out on both happiness and heaven. He is a relapse waiting to happen!

It is also our hope, when a member leaves Project Rescue, he will continue to work his spiritual program on his own. This would be:

1. Having a support system outside of Project Rescue.
2. Attending Bible classes.
3. Attending all the services of the church.
4. Helping others to overcome.
5. Continuing to pray, read, study, do, and teach!



**Recovering Addicts and alcoholics like myself have to work a recovery program our whole lives. God's program of recovery (the Bible) warns us about the danger of relapse:**

**"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 2 Peter 2:20**

**"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1**



**However, victory is 100% guaranteed for those who continue to work their recovery programs:**



**Because we are a Bible based program, our success rates for members who are continuing their recovery programs, run higher than the secular programs. For the last 5-years, here is our rate:**

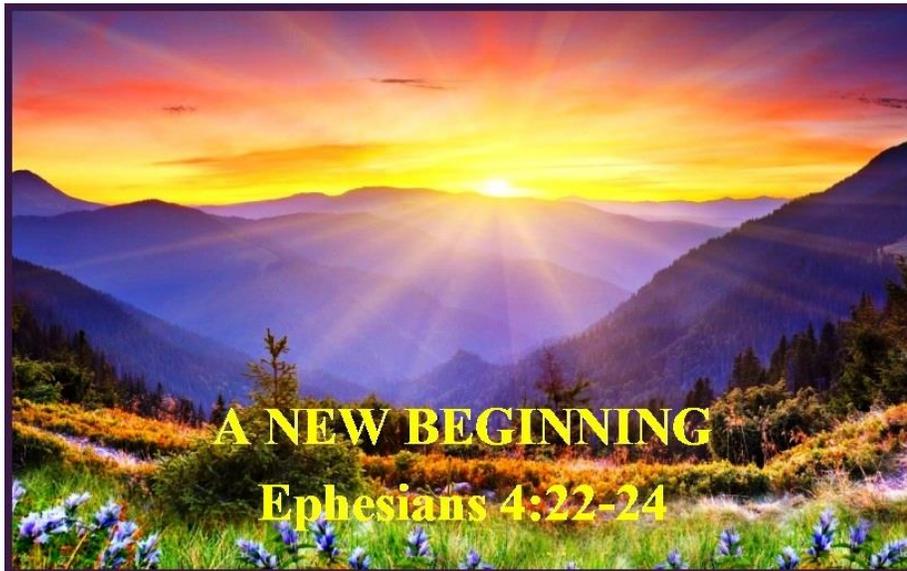
40% (83 out of 186 for all who have entered).

68% (31 out of 45 for those who completed 6-months).

84% (16 out of 19 for those who completed 1-year).

“God gave the increase” Galatians 3:6

## **What is a recovery program? The Bible!**



We are still operating at full capacity with 20 men participating in our recovery program. If you can help us to add more rooms, so we can restore more sick souls to life and to the Lord, please make your check out to Project Rescue and send it to 179 Cave Spring Road, Decatur, AL 35603.

Our heartfelt thanks for your prayers and continued support! *Ronnie Crocker*