



celebrate
recovery

Welcome Home

Eating Disorders for Women

As women, Food Addiction is unique. Our behavior ranged from daily binges, excessive exercise, to starvation and vomiting. We engaged in a high intake of sweets and unusual rituals while eating. For some of us it was Compulsive Overeating, Bulimia, and Anorexia. We used our bodies to create an illusion that gave us a false sense of self-worth. We jeopardized our relationships, health, jobs, morals, and values; we even neglected our children. All the while, we rationalized our addictive behaviors. “Why can’t I have a little something like everyone else?” “It’s just food” or “What they don’t know, won’t hurt them.” As we lived a double-life, we became disconnected from reality making true intimacy with God, or another, impossible. We took God off His throne and replaced Him with our behavior.

Why? We were running. Running from love, running from pain. From pain of shame, self-hate, and multiple forms of abuse. We lacked self-worth, realistic body image, and feared intimacy. We tried to connect; we tried to escape. We felt abandoned. We had a need to be in control and have power over others and/or situations. Spiritually we were bankrupt.

We have learned to numb our feelings and to cope with our inadequacies by reaching out for a cure that would ultimately destroy us. This in effect defined our belief system in a way that was not in line with God’s plan for our life with food.

Food addiction is progressive. What starts as a little curiosity or negative self-talk, the line we chose to cross, sets us into motion for the next line we choose to cross. Ask the recovering compulsive over-eater, bulimic or anorexic when and how they started, and how it ended. We tell ourselves that tomorrow our food behavior will be better, but it never is. Eventually our behaviors resulted in kidney damage, destruction of teeth, malnutrition, cardiac arrest, or diabetes. For many, the risk of death is now a reality. And hopefully before that happens, we hit bottom.

We’ve asked ourselves, “How did we get here?” Sometimes, we don’t even remember why we started in the first place.

To determine if you suffer from an Eating Disorder, ask yourself these questions. . .

1. Do thoughts about food occupy much of your time?
2. Are you preoccupied with a desire to be thinner?
3. Do you starve to make up for eating binges?
4. Are you overweight despite concern by others for you to lose weight?
5. Do you binge and then vomit afterward?
6. Do you exercise excessively to burn off calories?
7. Do you overeat by bingeing or by grazing continuously?
8. Do you eat the same thing every day and feel annoyed when you eat something else?
9. Do you binge and then take enemas or laxatives to get rid of the food you have eaten?
10. Do you hide stashes of food for future eating or bingeing?
11. Do you avoid foods with sugar in them and feel uncomfortable after eating sweets?
12. Is food your friend?
13. Would you rather eat alone? Do you feel uncomfortable when you must eat with others?
14. Do you have specific ways you eat when you are emotionally upset, sad, angry, afraid, anxious or ashamed?
15. Do you become depressed or feel guilty after an eating binge?
16. Do you feel fat even when people tell you otherwise?
17. Are you ever afraid that you won't be able to stop eating when you are on binge?
18. Have you tried to diet repeatedly only to sabotage your weight loss?
19. Do you binge on high-calorie, sugary, forbidden foods?
20. Are you proud of your ability to control the food you eat and your weight?
21. Do you have weight changes of more than 10 pound after binges and fasts?
22. Do you feel your eating behavior is abnormal? Do you try to hide it from others?
23. Does feeling ashamed of your body weight result in more bingeing?
24. Do you make a lot of insulting jokes about your body weight or your eating?
25. Do you feel guilty after eating anything not allowed on your diet?
26. Do you follow unusual rituals while eating, such as counting bites or not allowing the fork or food to touch you lips?

If you checked five or more of the questions numbered 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, you may be dealing with compulsive overeating.

If you checked five or more of the questions numbered 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25, 26, you may be dealing with anorexia nervosa.

If you checked five or more of the questions numbered 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, you may be dealing with bulimic nervosa.