

I Was Gay

The testimony of Stephen Bennett

'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.'
2 Corinthians 5:17

'but I Changed'.

For years, I believed the lie, too, that I was born 'gay.' I was always told by my 'gay' friends and society that my homosexuality was unchangeable ' just as one's height or skin color. I was told this is how God made me and I just needed to accept the hand I was dealt. Yet as much as I tried to accept this message, deep inside my heart I knew something was wrong with me ' desperately wrong.

I ALWAYS FELT DIFFERENT

I can never remember a time not feeling this way. I always felt different from the other boys. I was never athletic, I was more sensitive and into the arts. In fact, other boys felt like a threat to me. They were masculine and I was not. I wished I had what they had and wanted it more than anything. They rejected me from the beginning and I was made fun of. The hurtful name calling, bullying, mocking and teasing became unbearable.

I TRIED TO FIT IN

I wanted to fit in and be 'one of the guys.' I tried playing several sports, but it just wasn't me. So, I hung around with girls. It felt safer. I tried dating girls in my teen years, yet no matter how hard I tried; it seemed my natural sexual desire was for other men. I couldn't help these feelings, I never chose them. Where did they come from? I tried to make myself like girls, but it just didn't happen. I continued the 'charade' until I eventually couldn't take it any longer.

I FINALLY 'CAME OUT'

As a freshman in college, away from my home, family and friends, I had a homosexual encounter with another student. I decided I needed to be who I 'really' was. In a matter of days, I finally 'came out.' I was gay. Within two months, depressed and confused, I dropped out of college and returned home. I 'came out' to my family and friends as well.

MY 'GAY' LIFE BEGINS

Now openly 'gay,' I was ready to conquer the world. The fear of my family and friends finding out about my homosexuality was over. They may not have been pleased with my sexual preference, but after all, this was my life, not theirs. I was sick of living my life for others. From now on, it was going to be all about me.

I soon found out many of my friends from the past also 'came out' and we started going to the 'gay' bars together. I lived for the night. I began drinking heavily, started using cocaine and became very promiscuous. I also developed bulimia. Over the next 11 years, I would have more than 100 homosexual partners, many whom are dead today from AIDS.

LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

I wanted to share my life with someone more than anything. The one night stands and short lived 'gay' flings were unsatisfying and left me only more depressed, I did have a few relationships that I thought would last, but as is common with most 'gay' relationships, they didn't. Finally, in 1989 I met a man that I fell in love with who was going to be my partner for life. We were together from the very first night and lived our story book 'gay' romance for the next 3 years. I believed I had finally found true happiness ' and the man of my dreams. Yet one day, it all changed with a knock on our

apartment door. My life would never be the same again.

GOD, THE BIBLE AND ME

A friend I hadn't seen in years was at my door and she had a Bible in her hand. She told me she became a Christian when she asked Jesus Christ into her heart. She said Jesus changed her life and she was 'born again.' She knew I was 'gay' and asked if she could come in, talk to me about her new life in Christ and what God says about homosexuality. Reluctantly, I agreed.

THE TRUTH ' IN LOVE

For the next hour and a half, she proceeded to show me in the Bible how homosexuality was an abomination and a grievous sin in God's eyes (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13), how the homosexual would not enter the kingdom of God because of his or her sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21) and how the homosexual would suffer eternal damnation, separated from God forever. (John 3:18-20, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:13-14)

She showed me how God did not make anyone 'gay' and clearly how no one was born that way. Most amazingly though she showed me how through a personal relational with Jesus Christ, homosexuals could change ' completely change! (1 Corinthians 6:11) Honestly, as angry as I was at her for seeming intolerant, hate filled and bigoted, deep in my heart, I knew she was speaking the truth ' in love (Proverbs 27:6). I knew she truly cared about me. I saw God's view of my homosexuality in the Bible, clearly printed in black and white. It was not her opinion, but God's Word (2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12). It was clear my anger was not directed at her ' but God Himself. She asked if I would pray with her to receive Jesus Christ and I said, 'No.' She gave me a Bible and left our home. I was numb, confused, mad ' and very troubled.

GUILTY BEFORE GOD

For the next year and a half, I began to read the Bible at night, with my partner lying in the bed next to me. The more I read it, the more I saw my homosexuality as sin and myself as a sinner before a holy God (Romans 3:23). It got to the point where anytime something sexually happened between my partner and I, I found myself on the bathroom floor praying for forgiveness to a God I didn't even know. God was clearly after my heart. (James 4:8)

A NEW MAN 'IN CHRIST'

After no longer being able to bear the guilt and shame, or justify my homosexual lifestyle, I cried out to the Lord, 'Jesus, please forgive me! Come into my heart and life, be my Lord and Savior (Luke 18:13). I agree Lord, my homosexuality is a sin in your eyes (Acts 17:30, 1 John 1:9), but I can't change on my own, I give it to You ' I need You more than ever ' my life is Yours!' (Luke 9:23)

At that moment, I knew something powerful happened. I felt it in my heart (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13). According to the Bible, I was born again (John 3:3-7, 1 Peter 1:23) ' made a 'new creature in Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:17). I agreed with God about my sin and completely gave my life over to the Lord. Within days, I made one of the hardest decisions I ever had to make and I left the man I deeply loved ' for another ' Jesus Christ. A new chapter in my life began: for I was a Christian ' a child of the living God.

A BRAND NEW DAY

I was born again in February of 1992 (Romans 10:13). In June of 1993, about a year later, another miracle happened. I was married to a beautiful Christian woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5) who knew me when I was 'gay' and never stopped praying for me (James 5:16). Today, we are the parents of two beautiful little children ' a boy and girl. Because of the faithful Christian witness of my friend showing up at my door years earlier who confronted me with the truth, my life completely changed.

My story is a nightmare turned fairy tale. I no longer struggle whatsoever with homosexual thoughts, feelings or actions. I am a heterosexual man through and through, the way God created me. Through Jesus Christ, I was able to overcome (1 John 4:4, Revelation 12:11), walk away and abandon a life of loneliness, sadness, pain ' and sin.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BEING 'GAY'

Friends, no one is born 'gay' ' no one. There is no 'gay' gene or no 'gay' center of the brain. The truth of the matter is in most cases homosexuality (or same-sex attractions) sadly has everything to do with one's childhood. It is developmentally determined.

Homosexuality is an outward expression of an inward conflict ' a conflict with a root cause or causes. In most cases, unless there was molestation, a premature sexual experience, early exposure to pornography or some other childhood trauma, one's same sex attractions can usually be traced back to an unhealthy, broken or nonexistent relationship with the same-sex parent. The homosexual is a broken individual ' a sinner that Jesus Christ deeply loves, one He is ready and willing to completely save and set free!(Hebrews 7:25)

Sexual abuse in childhood also plays a major factor in one's walk down the homosexual path. Statistics show as much as 75% of 'gay' men have been sexually abused as a child by another man. Even higher percentages of lesbians have been molested as a child by a male close to them, usually following by some type of female sexual abuse. In my case, there was no childhood sexual abuse, but a broken relationship with my father. Today, that relationship has been restored, biblical forgiveness extended and the past completely healed ' all because of Jesus Christ and His love for me.

When one biblically deals with the root cause(s) of his or her same-sex attractions, he or she can be completely freed from the homosexual thoughts, desires and actions, and move on to healthy heterosexuality. Remember, with God, all things are possible! (Mark 10:27)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER

Jesus Christ is the answer you have been looking for ' no matter what sin you may struggle with ' homosexuality or any other. Jesus was God in the flesh (John 1:1-14), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), Who died and shed His blood (Hebrews 9:22) on the cross for you and for me (Romans 5:6, Colossians 1:14). He paid a debt He didn't owe, a 'sin' debt you and I owe ' and could never pay (2 Corinthians 5:21). He was buried and rose in victory over death three days later (1 Corinthians 15:4) and now is in heaven ever interceding on our behalf. He invites all to accept His sacrificial payment for our sin on the cross of Calvary. Jesus personally died for you ' to save you and give you eternal life right now! (John 3:16, 1 John 5:13) The gift of eternal life is free: you just need to ask for it and receive it, by faith. The best you know how, won't you pray right now where you are, and ask Jesus to forgive you for all of your sins, come into your heart and life, and be your Lord and Savior' Your life will be made new, heaven will be your home and you will be a child of the living God!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and resources for those struggling with homosexuality; for parents, family members or friends of homosexuals; what God and the Bible says about homosexuality or how to be born again, please contact:

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