

# 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, KJV*

# ...but I changed.

For years, I believed the lie, too, that I was born “gay.” I was always told by my “gay” friends, as well as society, that my homosexuality was *unchangeable* – just as one’s height or skin color. I was told this was how God made me and I just needed to accept the hand that I was dealt. Yet as much as I tried to accept this belief, 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 I wanted it more than anything. They rejected me from the start and I was made fun of – *even by my own father*. The hurtful names – *queer, faggot, sissy, “gay”* – along with the bullying, the mocking and the teasing became *unbearable*.

## I TRIED TO FIT IN

More than anything, I wanted to fit in and be “one of the guys.” I tried playing different sports, but it just wasn’t me. So, I hung around with girls. They felt safer. I tried dating girls in my teen years, yet no matter how hard I tried, it seemed my “natural” attraction and desire was *toward men* – not women. I couldn’t help these feelings – *I never chose them*. Then where did they come from? I tried to force myself to “like” girls and I even tried to date again, but nothing worked. I continued the heterosexual charade until I couldn’t take it any longer.

## I FINALLY “CAME OUT”

One night 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. After 18

years, I finally “came out” as a “gay” man. Within two months, depressed and confused, I dropped out of college and returned home to my family. I decided to also “come out” to my parents and friends and stop hiding my secret. I was the first born of three children and my siblings always looked up to me. *No more*. Now as a college dropout and homosexual, how could they? I became the black sheep of my family. I felt so lost and sad because I knew I disappointed everyone who loved me and I completely ruined my life. *Many times, I just wanted to give up and die.*

## MY “GAY” LIFE BEGINS

After going through months of deep depression, the clouds started to clear. Now openly “gay,” I grew emotionally stronger and felt I was ready to conquer the world. The fear of family or 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 discovered many of my friends from the past also “came out” and I was introduced to the “gay” bar scene. I lived for the night. I began drinking heavily, started using cocaine and became dangerously sexually promiscuous. I also developed bulimia. Over the next 11 years, I would have more than *100 homosexual partners*. Today, many of those men are dead from HIV/AIDS.

## LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT

More than anything, I wanted to share my life with someone. I just wanted *to love and be loved*. Eventually, the numerous one night stands and short lived “gay” flings became unsatisfying and left me only more depressed. I had a number of long term relationships, but as is common with most “gay” relationships – *they didn’t last*. Finally in 1989, I met a man I fell in love with. We were going to be partners for life – together from the very first night. We lived our story book “gay” romance for the next three years. I believed I *finally* found true happiness and the man of my dreams. Yet one day, it would all change with a knock on our apartment door. *My life would never be the same.*

## GOD, THE BIBLE AND ME

Kathy, a very dear friend of mine who I hadn't seen in years, showed up at our apartment one day – *unannounced* – holding a Bible in her hand. She told me she became a Christian when she asked Jesus Christ into her heart. She said Jesus completely changed her life and now, she was “*born again.*” She said she had peace and was happy like never before. Kathy knew I was “gay” and asked if she could come in, talk to me about her new faith and life in Christ – and also share what God and the Bible actually said about homosexuality. *Reluctantly, I agreed.*

## THE TRUTH ~ IN LOVE

For the next hour and a half, Kathy proceeded to show me in the Bible how homosexuality was “an abomination” and “a grievous sin” in the eyes of God (**LEV 18:22, LEV 20:13**); how the homosexual individual would not inherit the kingdom God because of his or her sin (**1 COR 6:9-10, GAL 5:19-21**); and how the homosexual would suffer eternal damnation, separated from God forever. (**JOHN 3:18-20, ROM 6:23, HEB 9:27, REV 20:13-14**)

Kathy clearly showed me from the Bible how God did not make anyone “gay” and how no one was born homosexual. What shocked me the most was she showed me how through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, homosexual men and women could in fact “change” – completely change. (**1 COR 6:11**) Honestly, as angry as I was at her for seeming intolerant, hate filled and bigoted, deep down in my heart, *I knew she was speaking the truth in love*. (**PROV 27:6**) *I knew* Kathy truly cared about me. I saw God's view of my homosexuality in the Bible – clearly printed in black and white – with my own eyes. It was not Kathy's opinion of my homosexuality, but literally God's Word. (**2 TIM 3:16, HEB 4:12**) Yes, I was angry, but my anger wasn't directed at her – it was really directed at *God Himself*. Kathy then asked if I would like to pray with her to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and I replied, “*No.*” She gave me a Bible and left our apartment. I was completely numb, confused, mad – *and I was very troubled*.

## GUILTY BEFORE GOD

For the next year and a half, I began to read the Bible at night with my boyfriend lying on the bed next to me. I couldn't understand things at first. However, the more I read, the more I began to see my homosexuality as sin and myself as a sinner before a Holy God. (ROM. 10:17, ROM 3:23) It finally got to the point where anytime something sexually happened between me and my partner, I found myself kneeling on the bathroom floor praying for forgiveness to a God *I didn't even know*. Something was happening on the inside: *God was after my heart (JAMES 4:8) and His Word was starting to change me – from the inside-out.*

## A NEW MAN “IN CHRIST”

After no longer being able to bear the guilt and shame I was feeling inside, or justify my homosexual lifestyle, I cried out to the Lord, “*Jesus, please forgive me for my sins! Right now Lord I ask You to come into my heart and life, to be my Lord and Savior. (LUKE 18:13) I agree Lord, my homosexuality is sin in your eyes, (ACTS 17:30, 1 JOHN 1:9) but I can't change on my own. I need You to do it! Jesus, please – I need You now more than ever! My life is no longer mine, Lord – it's Yours!*” (LUKE 9:23)

At that moment, *I knew* something really big happened. I knew it in my mind and I felt it in my heart. (2 COR 1:22, EPH 1:13) According to the Bible, I was born again (JOHN 3:3-7, 1 PET 1:23) and I became a new man in Christ! (2 COR 5:17) For the first time ever, I agreed with God about my homosexual sin and I completely gave my life over to Jesus Christ. Within days, I felt so convicted, I knew I had to make one of the hardest decisions ever: I left my partner, the man I deeply loved – for another – Jesus Christ. A new chapter in the life of Stephen Bennett began, *for I was now a Christian – a child of the living God!*

## A BRAND NEW DAY

I was born again in February of 1992. Though I immediately stopped engaging in homosexual behavior, I was still lusting after other men – in addition to grieving the loss of the partner

I left and loved. When I dealt though with my deep root issues in the following months – which included the Lord completely restoring the broken, non-existent relationship with my father, as well as me painfully addressing the reality of being molested at 11 years old by another male – it was then that I was completely set free and completely delivered from homosexuality.

I now truly understood that I was not “born gay.” I also knew I didn’t “choose” to be “gay” either. I became same-sex attracted as a result of those things that traumatically transpired in my childhood and teen years. I realized though that I had the choice to change – to completely change. Looking back, I can now clearly see throughout all of those years, I was desperately looking for the love of my father in the arms of other men. Today, by God’s grace, I have the real thing and I no longer struggle with homosexuality whatsoever.

For many individuals struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions, “coming out” of homosexuality is a process and the time frame of overcoming these unnatural and unchosen feelings can vary greatly. Can God immediately deliver and set someone free who is in bondage to the sin of homosexuality? Absolutely. For me though and many others, it was a process that took time making it back to the God ordained road of heterosexuality.

In June of 1993, slightly over a year after I received Christ, the Lord gave me the deepest desires of my heart ([PSALMS 37:4](#)) and I married a beautiful, godly Christian woman ([GEN 2:24](#), [MAT 19:5](#)) – my wife **Irene** – who knew me when I was “gay” and never stopped praying for me ([JAMES 5:16](#)). Today, we are a husband and wife whose love grows stronger for each other with every new day. We are also blessed to be the parents of two amazing and precious children – a boy and a girl. Now, we are a loving family – and the center of our family is Jesus Christ.

Because of the faithful Christian witness, love and compassion of my friend Kathy who never gave up on me – *who loved me enough to tell me the Truth* – my life and eternity completely changed. **Kathy, I can never thank you enough for your love.**

My story is a *dream come true*. I no longer struggle whatsoever with homosexual thoughts, feelings or actions. I am a heterosexual man through and through, the exact way God created me to be. Through Jesus Christ, I was able to overcome the sin of homosexuality (1 JOHN 4:4, REV 12:11) and abandon the homosexual lifestyle that goes against nature and God's moral law. All I ever wanted was *to love and be loved*. Today, I am a husband and father with *Jesus Christ as my Savior*. I have never experienced such true and real love in a more powerful way.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT BEING "GAY" OR LESBIAN

Friend, no one is born "gay." No one. Homosexuality is not biological. There is no "gay" gene. The truth of the matter is, in most cases, the roots of one's homosexuality can be tragically traced back to one's childhood and youth. Homosexual feelings can develop out of rejection, a real or perceived lack of love, dysfunction or some form of tragedy, molestation or abuse.

Homosexuality is an outward expression of an inward conflict – a conflict usually with a root or root causes. Many times, unless there was molestation, a premature sexual experience, an early exposure to pornography or some other type of childhood trauma (*even something as tragic as the death of a parent, divorce, remarriage, adoption or more*), homosexuality *can* stem from an unhealthy, broken or nonexistent relationship with one of the parents: usually the same-sex parent. The homosexual person is a broken individual – an individual that Jesus Christ deeply loves and cares for, one He's created for His glory and is ready and willing to completely forgive, save and set free. (HEB 7:25)

Sexual abuse in childhood can play a major factor in many homosexual men and women's lives. Statistics show as many as 75% of "gay" men have been prematurely sexually active or abused as a child, usually involving another male (sometimes a female.) *Even higher percentages of lesbians* have been molested or abused by a male or female close to them, usually followed by some type of female sexual abuse.

When one honestly deals with the root cause(s) of his or her same-sex attractions, he or she can be completely set free from the sinful and unnatural thoughts, desires and actions, and move on to natural heterosexuality. Some individuals striving for change may periodically struggle or be tempted, yet Christians need to be sensitive to these courageous men and women. Remember, we are all tempted in one way or another. *Temptation is not sin – acting out upon that temptation is.* Whether one chooses to remain single and celibate, or like myself, chooses to marry – change begins by taking that first step. And the best first step you can take is by asking Jesus Christ to help you.

## **TAKE THAT FIRST STEP AND PRAY!**

*“Dear Jesus, I confess Lord that I am a sinner and need to be saved. I believe You are God in the flesh and You were born of a virgin. I believe You died on the cross for me and paid for all of my sin – past, present and future. I believe You rose from the grave three days later in victory over death. I believe You are now in heaven interceding on behalf of those who have placed their trust in You. Jesus, right now I ask You to come into my heart and life, and be my Lord and Savior! I put all of my faith and trust in You and You alone. I surrender my life now completely to You. Begin working in my life and change me for Your glory. I now know I will be in heaven with You one day because of what You alone did for me on the Cross of Calvary! Thank you for saving me today Jesus! I now live my life for You!”* If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all of your heart, the Bible says you have been born again! Start attending a local church which preaches the Word of God and begin growing and walking in your new faith in Jesus Christ! Lord bless you!

***Date I was saved (born again):*** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please let us know about your decision today! We would love to help you learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible. To confidentially speak or pray with someone who truly cares and understands, please contact:*

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