Emily’s Testimony

I come from a family where things were far from perfect. I was the youngest child and the only girl, so my parents were overprotective. In my house, there was a lot of fighting and chaos. At school, I joined every club possible so I wouldn’t have to come home when classes ended for the day.

On top of the chaos at home, my family put a lot of pressure on me to be the best at everything I did. They loved me and their intentions were good, but their expectations burdened me with a lot of stress. In a club, I had to be the president. If I sang in the choir, it had to be the advanced group. I couldn’t just get good grades; I had be the valedictorian with the best grades. I held myself to those standards. If I did something wrong, I was extremely hard on myself. Because of those school experiences, I developed some serious anxiety and people-pleasing issues that I am now dealing with.

Then I met Jordan, who became my husband. He helped me change my life and led me to God. Jordan became my biggest supporter, defender, and best friend. There was no doubt in my mind that I was meant to spend my life with him.

We had been dating for about two and a half years and engaged for one of those years when he told me that he struggled with same-sex attraction (SSA). I was shocked, and I kept telling myself not to freak out. I said to myself, “This is the man I love, and I need to be there for him in this time of vulnerability.”

Finding out someone you love struggles with SSA is difficult to hear. A grieving process begins with this type of information. I have journeyed through that grief, and sometimes I still battle it.

After I found out about Jordan’s SSA, I had to consider if it was something I could handle. I asked God if getting married was the right thing to do. Each time, God seemed to say, “Yes, you were meant to marry Jordan. No matter whom you marry, that person comes into the marriage with sin, and so do you. You are two imperfect people living in a sinful world. You choose whether you can handle that person’s sin and love him in spite of it.”

God had opened every door in our relationship, and that one sin was not going to end it.

Same-sex attraction is a sin like any other sin. Nothing had changed about Jordan. He was still the same person I knew and loved. Through time and love, God has shown me that there is no sin that cannot be overcome. There is nothing our God cannot redeem. Not only does he redeem our sin and wash us clean, but he also uses our redemption for his glory. And SSA was no exception. Our temptations and struggles do not define us. God does.

Although talking about each other’s sin was difficult and required a lot of vulnerability, it was worth it. What amazed me was that Jordan didn’t stop being vulnerable. Even when the topic was difficult, he was kind. He told me I could ask him anything and he would be honest. He gave me time to grieve and to be upset. He was there for me every step of the way.

Dealing with same-sex attraction is a process. Change doesn’t happen overnight. Jordan and I had to search, lean, and allow God to guide us. We attended support groups and conferences, where we reached out to people who were going through the same struggle. God is still growing us and teaching us every day.

As hopeless as things may seem now, God will deliver you. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, he promises us: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (ESV).

There is no one who is beyond hope, and there is no one who cannot be reached by God’s love.