

My Secret Shame

By E. Jill Riley, p. 40

What happens to God's call to ministry in the face of mental illness?

1. Do you think the stigma surrounding mental illness has changed in recent years?
2. What needs to change in the church to make space for persons with a history of mental illness to be leaders?
3. Jill Riley felt shame from many sources—the closing of her church, going on disability, taking medications, her body image, and her history of abuse. Which of these challenges would be the most difficult for you?
4. Riley says that when she started sharing her story she began to find freedom. How can the exposure she describes in this story lead to freedom?
5. It was painful for Riley to reevaluate her call as a pastor, yet she writes that she is considering the possibility of a new kind of call. When has your understanding of your vocation changed, and how did you see God in that shift?