

# Pure Marriage

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*Jill and I met at a rodeo and our relationship started growing. We dated for three years, and during this time I fell in love with her personality, her outgoing nature, and the love she showed me. She is the one who encouraged me to go to church where I finally realized there was something missing from my life. Because of her influence, I became a Christian. She believed in me from the very beginning, and if it had not been for her, I would not have graduated college or become the man I am today.*



**The Elferts  
Married May 16, 2009**

*We were engaged for four months before I received the devastating diagnosis of cancer for the second time in my life. She was my strength. She was there to comfort, encourage, and take care of me. My fight against cancer lasted around seven months, and I never would have made it without her. After being given a “cancer-free” diagnosis in April, I was able to marry my best friend in May. I am truly blessed, and I thank God for allowing Jill to be a part of my life. --Adam*

*Adam makes me happy and always brings out the best in me. He encourages me, gives me strength, and is the godly husband I always wanted. You never know how much someone truly means to you until you have that moment that creates the thought of losing them. As a couple, I think walking through that situation together along with our constant trust in the Lord brought us closer together and made us stronger. Through all of the chemo, transplant, and radiation we never let anything negative take control of our minds and attitudes. If Adam wouldn't have purposed to have faith that it would all work out and we would make it, there were times that I could have just fallen apart. I just want Adam to know how much I appreciate him and feel blessed to have such an awesome husband. We have only been married for seven months, and I am looking forward to spending the rest of my life with him. He is everything I could have dreamed of and more. --Jill*

## Eight Seconds

There are times in life when short periods can feel like an eternity. One example is when you are sitting on the back of a bucking bronco. The chute opens, and the eight-second ride begins. The bronco twists, turns, jumps and kicks. It does all it can to throw the rider, but the cowboy purposes to hang on until the buzzer sounds. He knows that if he wants the ride to count, then it must last for the duration. His score is then determined by how well he was able to endure the very challenging situation.

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. -James 1:4

At times in your marriage, you may feel as if you are sitting on that bucking horse. What are you going to do when tragedy, strife or a stressful circumstance opens the gate and starts the uncomfortable ride? Will you purpose to hold on, or will you be easily thrown?

It may feel as if the experience will never end, but the buzzer always sounds. In the end, the cowboy who faced the toughest circumstances and was able to stay on top of his situation brings home the trophy.

### **Keys to Victory in Marital Rodeos:**

- When the chute opens and hell breaks loose, hold on to your partner with a grip that whitens your knuckles
- Lift your other hand towards Heaven and ask the Lord to give you the strength to endure the difficulties
- Eight seconds only seems like a long time when you are on the horse, but the buzzer always sounds
- The cowboy who brings home the biggest belt buckle is the one who endured the most difficult challenges
- God will never let your marriage get on a horse that you are not able to ride until the end! (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Love endures long and is patient... -1 Corinthians 13:4