

Day 13 - Deliverance from Abortion, Rape and Incest

by Bernadette Love

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:11-12

The topic of abortion has been a sore subject in this country for many years. The argument has always centered around whether the fetus can be considered alive or not. Though most abortions occur during the first trimester of pregnancy, when the fetus is unable to live outside the womb, it is still alive. Personally, my thought is this, how can a fetus grow if it is not alive. Nothing dead is going to grow anywhere nor under any circumstances.

It is my belief that abortion is wrong on quite a few levels. Having gone through one myself many years ago, I now wish that I had dealt with my unwanted pregnancy in a different way. My pregnancy was the result of a rape, and back in the 70's there weren't a lot of options to deal with the consequence of rape. At the urging of another uninformed young woman, I opted for the abortion. A decision that I later regretted with all of my heart.

While at the clinic, waiting for my turn to terminate the life of my child, I was counseled about the procedure and how to take care of my body following the procedure. They were careful to make sure that I understood that part of it. But, no one told me how I was going to feel when it was all said and done.

There was a void that could not be ignored. Having been brought up in a Christian home, I knew that I had killed a living, human being. I carried the pain and the shame for many years. I believe that the guilt that I felt over the abortion led me to surrender to years of abuse in my marriage.

42 million women choose abortion each year with about 20 million of those being illegal. One woman dies every 7 minutes around the world due to illegal abortions.

Today, 18.3% of women over the age of 18 reported being sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Every 2 minutes someone in America is sexually assaulted. Last year 207,754 people reported being sexually assaulted. However, 54% of rapes go unreported...these statistics are staggering and sobering. Sexual assault is something that we tend to ignore until it hits home. 97% of rapist will never see the inside of a jail.

1 in every 33 men have been the victim of attempted or completed rape. 11% to 12% of all rapes occur to men. It is believed that 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18. 90% of the time the boy knows his abuser. It is either someone he has

loved, trusted and looked up to. Male victims are less likely to report their abuse and even less likely to use support systems.

46% of all abused children are the victims of family members. 61% of rapes in America occur before the victim is 18. 29% of all forcible rapes occurred to victims who were less than 11 years old. 11% of these rapes were at the hands of fathers and step fathers.

If you have never experienced the horror of rape, incest or abortion, please consider yourself to be blessed. The aftermath of either of these can be just as devastating as the act itself. Some of the reported results are: self blame, shame, guilt, rage fear, anger, aggression, isolation, withdrawal, depression, low self esteem, eating disorders, anxiety, substance abuse, disruptive behavior, school/learning problems, criminal activity, and suicide. Is there any wonder that these victims need our prayers.

Let us always keep these victims in our thoughts and our prayers, even once the 21 days are over. Sometimes it takes years for these wounds to heal or even get to the point where they are bearable. The thing that hurts the worst is knowing that over half of the victims are too ashamed to let someone know that they are a victim, thereby not getting the help that could set them free.

The demons that are left behind will remain with their victims until the victims no longer see themselves as victims, but as victors, having overcome the very thing that was set out to destroy them. The only answer is to find victory in Christ. And it can happen with all of us praying!

Let us pray...

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that you forgive us for our sins. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness as we bow before your throne. We praise you, oh God, for who you are. We magnify your name and give you all honor and glory.

Lord, this prayer is for the countless men, women and children who have been and are being abused, molested, tortured, raped and degraded. We lift them to you now, asking that you not only heal the body, the heart, the spirit, the mind and the soul but that you heal their self esteem, their self worth, and let them know that they are not to blame.

Lord, since you are the restorer, the redeemer and the mighty deliverer, Father please deliver them from the demons that are left in the wake of their abuse. Lord, destroy the yokes of guilt and shame, of rage and fear, of depression and thoughts of suicide. Lord send someone to tell them of your great love, your redemptive love.

Father, we also lift up the abusers, who were probably abused in some way themselves. Touch them Lord that they may not abuse again. Send someone to

them as well to let them know of your great love for mankind. For you loved us so much that you sent your son to bear our guilt and shame, and to this we offer our continual thanks.

These things we ask in the name of Jesus...Amen.