

I grew up in an abusive home where various members of my family physically, sexually, verbally and emotionally abused me. My mom told me many times that she should have had an abortion when she was pregnant with me as my Dad had wanted her to. I told myself as a young child that I would never do this to my child - that I would never allow myself to hurt a child this deeply.

I became a Christian while in Junior High. I was not allowed to go to any church other than the liberal one my Mom had taken us to since birth. When I left home at 18, I started going to church with some friends. This church taught that you never knew which sin would make God give up on you so I tried very hard to be perfect so that God could love me, just as I tried so hard to be perfect so that my mom and dad could love me.

Finally, I gave up. I figured it would be less painful if I turned away from God before He turned away from me. So, I went into rebellion and figured I would be proactive in making sure that He would give up on me by going out and sinning "big sins". I went looking for someone to love me. Although I did not want to become sexually involved, I figured that was the price I had to pay to get "love" in return. I became pregnant.

At the time, I was living with my Dad after a period of unemployment. I was 24 yrs. old. My Dad had always been very violent and particularly so when my Mom was pregnant with my younger brother. He had beat her, pushed her down a flight of basement stairs onto concrete, kicked her in the stomach and told her how fat and ugly she was when she was pregnant. I was terrified! I could not tell my Dad I was pregnant for fear of what he would do to me. I did not know where else to turn. I had very little money, so, you guessed it - I had an abortion. I knew it was wrong and was under a very heavy weight of conviction before and after. After I did it, I forced myself to stuff it way down deep inside and try to forget it just as I had done with the childhood sexual abuse.

I met my husband a year later and came back to the Lord. I confessed all my other sins except the abortion because I did not see how God could possibly forgive me for that. I did not want to think about it or, especially, call it what it was - murder.

From the time of my abortion in 1982 until two years ago, I have live with self-hatred, depression, perfectionism, eating disorders, and suicidal thoughts at times. I blamed all these on my childhood because I would not admit the abortion even to myself. My marriage came very close to breaking up because of my angry, bitter, negative personality.

Then, our amazingly merciful God gave us a beautiful daughter 3 1/2 years ago. Holding her and loving her brought back the abortion and I knew I had to do something to help other women see that this is not a good decision. I decided to start volunteering at the Pregnancy Care Center in my area. I signed up for the training and, after we had completed the training, the director said that those who had had an abortion would be required to go through post-abortion counseling. That counseling has changed my life. (It was, by the way, Victims Of Choice 10 step program, and I thank you for doing what you have done!!) Being able to tell someone about the abortion and receive God's forgiveness has been the beginning of an incredible time of healing and growth for me. I am healing in so many ways that I never thought possible - spiritually, physically, emotionally! It is truly nothing less than amazing, maybe even miraculous!!! To explain all that would take up far too much of your time. I will say that God is an amazingly merciful and faithful God!!

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