

## The Purple Corner

**April 2011**

As an acknowledgement of Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month I have chosen to share the following prayer. May you find comfort and hope in knowing we care and in the fact that it is **not** your fault. Surely there is a balm in Gilead.

### The Voice of a Silent Cry

Inspired by the Holy Spirit to Evangelist Portia Smith from I Will Survive by Lori S. Robinson  
Scriptural Reference: 2 Samuel 13, the Story of Tamar

Silence is not what you make it out to be,  
Nor is it what you think.  
But if you listen to my heartfelt cry or feel the pain that grips my heart,  
Then you would know that what you think you see is really not the big picture you see but what my silence says,  
It's my past abuse.  
It is more than I can bear.  
The mask I wear is one I've come committed to and her name is "Silence."  
Just like Tamar's cry, the cry of an incestuous fear that has brought "Silence" to the front, that says I'd rather be alone, but the big picture is really saying:  
Pray for the fear that grips my heart.  
Silence has become the character of what you think I am,  
But the mental, physical, and emotional abuse has Silenced me because of the agonizing pain of fear that still grips my heart.  
Silence says don't tell that you have been stripped of your integrity, self-esteem, or feeling, that you are almost over the edge and giving up.  
Suicide says this is the only way out.  
But when I almost gave in to what Silence wanted, one day I heard a still, quiet voice that said:  
My child, I've carried your loads.  
Don't let Silence dictate anymore.  
It's okay, for Time of Refreshing is present,  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.  
Relax and know that I am God and that I am Jehovah- Jireh, thy provider,  
and the God that healeth thee.  
For there is a balm in Gilead,  
For the wounds you have sustained, the great physician is present to comfort you in such a time as this,  
that Time of Refreshing will overtake your spirit.  
The Lord is saying to you:  
My child, give me Silence.  
Leave her at the altar and break out with praise and thanksgiving and let Silence know that:  
No longer can you hold me in bondage,  
but I'll shout the victory cry that I'm no longer a victim,  
but now I can be a Victorious warrior in Christ Jesus.  
Amen. Amen.

Evangelist Portia Smith is a co-founder of Time of Refreshing Women's Support Group, which gives safe haven and emotional and spiritual aid to women in crisis, in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Thank you for breaking the silence and being the voice of many! May others hear that same still, quiet voice and respond with hope. Easter is a time of hope and victory. Thank God for loving us.