



New Horizons Newsletter

"May the Lord show you His favor and give you peace." (Nu. 6:26)

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PART 1 OF 2

Instead of giving you a portion of this recently completed article I felt compelled to give you the entire article; Part 1 in July and Part 2 in August.

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SURVIVING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

A young lady was telling me about how she was experiencing anxiety every morning. She said she was dreading going to work every day. One of her co-workers was a young man who couldn't keep his hands to himself. Every time he walked by her desk he would make a sexual comment. Often, she found herself looking over her shoulder in anxious anticipation of him coming up from behind. She waited until the session was almost over to tell me that months earlier this same man raped her at the office Christmas party.

The finances in our country continue to change our lives. As tolerance for stress decreases, situations like insufficient funds will cause some persons to turn to selfish escapes that will do harm to themselves as well as others. An escape is something we turn to when we avoid conflict. An abnormal love and trust relationship forms with the objects

and/or the events that are used in the escapes. There is an illusion - fantasy - of relationship and a brief moment of feeling good.

Some take flight by avoiding or running away from responsibilities and toward indulgences such as alcohol and drugs. Others will indulge in addictive diversions of sexual fantasies. These escapes become habits turning into compulsions (a forceful urge) that, for some can lead into sexual addiction. A percentage of those who are bitter turn sexual fantasies into aggressive fantasies that can lead into sexual violence when intimate contact is made with another.

Sexual violence is a broad term that involves three groupings: sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. The offenders can come from all walks of life: strangers, casual acquaintances, friends, family, politicians, doctors, lawyers, clergy, teachers, wealthy, or poor. Most offenders are male and they will exert power and control through sexual violence that harms individuals, families, and society.

Sexual harassment can be a variety of behaviors such as being brushed against in a provocative manner, being touched, sexual jokes, indecent exposure or gestures, and demeaning comments. A sexually offensive working environment or school environment will interfere with work or school performance. "Although the law doesn't prohibit simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents that are not very serious, harassment is illegal when it is so frequent or severe that it creates a hostile or offensive work environment or when it results in an adverse employment decision (such as the victim being fired or demoted)."[1]

Sexual assault involves unwanted non-intercourse penetration that is attempted or completed, physical force or threats of force, use of weapons, touching of private parts, voyeurism or exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, or display of victim pictures.

Rape, in many states, is a sexual assault that involves sexual intercourse with a non-consenting child, teen, adult, or elderly person. In my state of Florida, criminal law describes rape as Sexual Battery (Florida Statute 794.011).

Rape or sexual battery is an act of power, control, and violence. Chances are, if you or someone you know has been raped, the rapist is someone that is known to the victim in 73% of rapes. Only 6% of rapists will spend a day in jail.^[2] In fact, most rapes are either during a date or by the victim's husband.

[1] Retrieved 7/03/10, from http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/sexual_harassment.cfm

[2] Retrieved 7/3/10, from <http://rainn.org/statistics>

Rape is a cruel act of aggression that may or may not involve a physical battering which normally leads to visible bruising and gashes. Even if the offender does not use a weapon or physical battering, forcible restraint is an act of aggression. A female on a date who unsuccessfully tries to push away the aggressive posturing of the male offender has been raped when she is penetrated (the same is true if a male is raped by another male). Rape is brutal because this violation of the sanctity of a woman's body will have a life long traumatic effect on the woman's future and family. For this reason some rapists are driven by vengeance with the intent of ruining lives because they feel their life has been damaged in some way.

The survivor should never be blamed for any provocative behavior leading up to the rape. When a more powerful person forces sexual penetration onto a less powerful person, a sexual battery/rape has occurred.

Watch Out For Drug Induced Date Rape

I remember a woman years ago who came for help regarding her inability to take Holy Communion. Her husband was with her and he stated how he felt there must be a demon inside of her who will not let her take communion in church. Their church had infrequent communion services that were never pre-announced. It was a small enough church that everyone knew each other. It was obvious to all when someone did not partake of Holy Communion.

She quietly described how upset she had been in obsessing that the communion cup was poisoned. She would feel panicked whenever their church pastor would announce communion. She often questioned herself whether she was a true Christian, often feeling ashamed and embarrassed.

In my office, during inner healing prayer ministry, a repressed (forgotten) memory surfaced. The memory was from before her marriage when she would go with the girls to nightclubs. They all felt safe in meeting at the familiar club. However, one night after only one glass of wine she felt unusually intoxicated. She could remember dancing with a man who they often saw frequenting the same club.

That is when the repressed memory - stronghold - of the rest of the night surfaced. She remembered being in his house, not knowing how she got there. She said; "I couldn't move . . . It was like my muscles were frozen and I saw everything in a haze." The man had drugged her drink at the nightclub and after driving her to his home, raped her through

the night. The next morning she found herself in front of the nightclub. Because the incident was so reprehensible to her conscious mind, she had locked (repressed) the memory away. She was too embarrassed to ask her friends about what happened. In fact, that was the last time she went out with those friends and the last night she ever set foot in a nightclub.

Suddenly, during the session she felt the impression of God saying to her that she was not to blame. She felt the Lord telling her that this was the reason why she could not take Holy Communion. You see, in her church, the grape juice was in an open container in which a wafer was dunked. Tears streamed down her eyes as the session ended. That Sunday, she was able to take Holy Communion in her church for the first time since the rape.

A woman should never walk away from an open drink left on the table. When you return, order a new drink; or better yet, don't drink any alcohol, it only makes it seem like the problems go away, but it's only for a short time. Alcohol also clouds your judgment.

The date rape drug gamma-hydroxybutrate (GHB) has been used and abused in the U.S. since 1990. The most popularly used date rape drug is Rohypnol (roofies).

"Rohypnol intoxication is generally associated with impaired judgment and impaired motor skills and can make a victim unable to resist a sexual attack. The combination of alcohol and Rohypnol is also particularly hazardous because together, their effects on memory and judgment are greater than the effects resulting from either taken alone. Effects begin within thirty minutes, peak within two hours, and can persist for up to eight hours. It is commonly reported that persons who become intoxicated on a combination of alcohol and flunitrazepam have "blackouts" lasting eight to twenty-four hours following ingestion. Disinhibition (losing your social inhibitions) is another widely reported effect of Rohypnol, when taken alone or in combination with alcohol. Adverse effects of Rohypnol use include, decreased blood pressure, memory impairment, drowsiness, visual disturbances, dizziness, confusion, gastrointestinal disturbances and urinary retention."^[3]

What Does Scripture Teach About Rape?

The story of Amnon and Tamar (2 Samuel 13):

^[3] Retrieved on 6/30/10, from <http://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=21794>

“... Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her . . . 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand'. . . he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her (he raped her) . . . Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her.” (Vs. 1-2; 6b; 14-15 parenthesis added)

Tamar was actually the half-sister of Amnon. His lustful thoughts may be evidence of a sexual addiction. His cousin, Johadab, saw Amnon in poor physical health; *“Why are you, the king's son, so lean and weak-looking from day to day?”*(vs. 4a) Amnon was so obsessed with lusting over Tamar he apparently was not eating or sleeping well for some time. He knew that by the Law of Moses, marriage to a sister or half-sister was forbidden (Leviticus 18:6-11; 20:17). He was heading in a self-destructive direction in his life. His cousin was a manipulator who made a plan to lure Tamara into Amnon's private residence. With Amnon's approval the trap was set and Tamar's life would never be the same.

Once satisfied, Amnon's ravenous sexual passions turned to hatred. I am sure he was also experiencing some self-hatred for what he had done. With any addiction, blame is always laid upon others. Amnon told his servant to take her away from him as if he were speaking of dumping trash.^[4]

Rape is never an act that only results in one victim. Sexual battery makes victims out of family and friends. Amnon's behavior, whether due to obsessive compulsive disorder, sex addiction, or a combination of illnesses, resulted in his murder by Tamara's enraged biological brother, Absalom.

Tamara's story is only one of several rapes reported in the Bible. See Genesis 19:5; Deuteronomy 22:25-27; Esther 7:8; Isaiah 13:16; Zechariah 14:2; Lamentations 5:11)

END OF PART 1

Part 2 of Surviving Sexual Violence will be printed in our August newsletter.

^[4] Commentary (1997) The Nelson Study Bible NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN.

WE NEED PRAYER PARTNERS

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FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Each year this ministry counsels hundreds of hurting souls. Some may only need a little advice while others require intensive Clinical Christian Counseling.

We need daily prayer partners who will dedicate a moment of each day to pray for the Clinical Christian Counselors and clients.

The need is greater than ever for financial assistance to continue seeing those who are desperate for help. You may not know this, but we do not turn away those who cannot give a donation for their counseling; we do not believe Jesus would either.

But, the fact remains, we have to pay our expenses.

God blessed us with a \$5000 donation last year from Mt. Pleasant United Brethren Church in Chambersberg, PA; Senior Pastor Larry Little. Their mission's donation to this faith based counseling ministry helped us to end the year with expenses paid.

Would you please consider adding us to your budget for giving to this tax exempt counseling ministry?
