

Scripture to Ponder:

“So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.”

1 Corinthians 12:24b–26 NLT

Is there a sense that your faith community is a place where burdens can be shared, where judgement is put aside and healing can take place? Is there a way that you can make this ministry more effective in your place of worship?

Prayer:

“God, you care deeply for broken–hearted people. Those wounded remain close to your heart. I want to know the pain and the anger you feel about this. I want to share your sorrow. But empathy is not enough for me. On behalf of those who have suffered abuse, I ask for justice. I ask you to restore what has been taken from them. Give them back what has slipped from their hands, their innocence, their hope, and their joy. For children who’ve been physically and emotionally abused by those stronger and more powerful – Lord, have mercy and heal them. For women who have suffered under sexual exploitation: Lord, have mercy and heal them. For those who have lost their own power to choose the direction of their lives: Lord, set them free. For those locked behind bars of oppression: God, give them strength and courage to find a path to liberty. Strengthen liberators who fight for justice. Grow indignation in me and in all your people against these offensive abuses. This is not your will; but you can use any tragedy to bring about your will. I pray that you will, and ask all these things in the name of Jesus.

Amen.”

For further reading:

We Were the Least of These – Reading the Bible with Survivors of Sexual Abuse, by Elaine Heath





The six studies that have been shared are far from conclusive. It is the prayer of all involved in the “True North” project that some of what has been written on these pages struck a chord and you want more. Continue the dialogue with others and with the Lord!

Hopefully you have been reminded that you are not alone in your journey as a young woman in today’s world wanting to know who you are in Christ. Trust that He is always speaking to you and desires to have a truly intimate relationship with you as you walk your journey so that you will gain God–confidence in this life of yours.

“O God, your gracious Spirit
 moves over the mysteries of the living and dying
 and is strangely present to me
 in the falling of leaves,
 the call of the wild geese,
 a child’s birth,
 the light in a friend’s eyes,
 the sudden lifting of the heart,
 and the deep longing which brings me to you now.

Make me aware of your presence
 that wonder may have its way with me,
 my passion be released,
 my confidence renewed in the depths of your holiness
 until, for a moment,
 my longing for you be fulfilled
 and I know I am really free
 to share bread and intimacy,
 to laugh and exchange mercy,
 to be at ease in my struggles,
 bold in my loving,
 brave in facing down my terror,

hopeful in the rising music of your kingdom,
 joyful in my living,
 and graceful in my life becoming
 a song of praise ever sung to you.”

Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace

