

**In May of 1976**, at 17yrs of age, I sat in an office waiting to get the results of a pregnancy test. I was scared - only two people knew what I was doing (neither of them were my parents). Deep inside, I already knew I was carrying a baby. After it was confirmed positive, I was pressured by two different adult women to abort the pregnancy. They acted like they knew best. After all, they were professional adults - I was just a frightened young teen. I refused several times - it was the farthest thing from my mind.

Life did have some enormous challenges, but today that baby is a beautiful young woman... our precious daughter. She married a wonderful husband and has, herself, given birth to our three most precious grandchildren. As I reflect on that situation, sometimes questions haunt me.... What if I had listened? What if I had listened to people who didn't explain to me that abortion ends the life of a baby. What if I had decided that this was easier than being responsible for my actions of giving in to sex before marriage.

I love my daughter and her family more than words can ever say. To think that I was offered, that day in 1976, the "choice" to snuff out her life, taking away her right to life, to grow up, have birthdays, go to college, get married and have her own children, makes me shutter. At the same time it makes me so humbly grateful to God for helping me make the right decision that day.

My heart aches for so many women who have had to live with the agonizing regret of making the other decision. I pray for them to receive God's mercy and comfort that He so longs to give them. So many lives torn apart - so many lives that could have been...are snuffed out.

My heart is deeply troubled when people so angrily speak of the "rights" of the mother, while completely ignoring the rights of an unborn child to the point of not even acknowledging it is a life.

Getting pregnant is not punishment – it is the natural outcome of the sacred gift of sex that was meant for a husband and wife. Getting pregnant demands responsible choices no matter how the life was conceived. Giving a child up for adoption is a very unselfish noble thing when it is the best option. There is help for women who choose to have the baby and raise the child.

We can and need to be a voice for the unborn. We have the privilege of voting for our leaders. The president we've chosen as a nation, will also be choosing several judges for the supreme court. Those judges will be making life and death decisions. I believe that the right to life is the most important right anyone has. Barack Obama promises to bring back partial birth abortion - giving women the "choice" to have their baby brutally murdered just minutes before it is born. A life that will end, at the choice of another. Today we all can make the choice...I'm praying you will choose life....thanks for taking the time to read this - whether you agree with it or not.....humbly, respectfully,  
Carolann