

Door 7: Abuse

Scriptures and prayers for healing from abuse.

The word abuse is used to describe the mistreatment or misuse of virtually anything. We speak of abuse of trust, drugs, institutions, and objects. These forms of abuse are sinful for the same reason that abuse directed at people is sinful. Such mistreatment is motivated by selfishness and results in damage and destruction. People abuse others for a variety of reasons, but selfishness underlies all abuse. We tend to lash out when things do not go our way.

Some abuse can be subtle. Emotional abuse can be difficult to detect because, on the surface, there is no observable evidence of the abuse, but that doesn't mean the effects are any less painful or destructive. Examples of emotional abuse include verbal attacks, criticism, favouritism, manipulation, deceit, threats, and withheld expressions of love.

Anyone can be an abuser, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or background. Victims of abuse can be ensnared in a cycle that is very difficult to break. Children have no responsibility for abuse suffered in childhood but often carry its effects into adulthood by repeating the patterns. Children need to be protected from abuse. Abusive parents are cursing their children rather than blessing them as they ought.

Psalms 112.2

2 His offspring will be mighty in the land.
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Psalms 20.7

7 The righteous who walks in his integrity.
blessed are his children after him!

The Bible regards abuse as sin because we are called to love one another. **John 13:34**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. Abuse disregards others and is the opposite of this command. An abuser desires to satisfy his natural selfishness regardless of the consequences to himself or others. Several passages in the Bible strongly condemn taking advantage of or abusing others **Exodus 22:22 You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.**

**Isaiah 10:2 to turn aside the needy from justice,
and to rob the poor of my people of their right,
that widows may be their spoil,
and that they may make the fatherless their prey!**

1 Thessalonians 4:6.

that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

Everyone is guilty of abuse at some level because everyone falls short of God's command to love others sacrificially. Only the love of Jesus in us can truly love others; therefore, real love only exists in those who have accepted Jesus as their saviour **Romans 8:10. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

Only Jesus can heal the wounds left by abuse **Psalm 147:3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.**

Sadly, many hurting people are waiting for the abuser to come repair the damage he caused. While it is good for the abuser to take responsibility and make amends to those he hurt, it is Jesus who grants peace to those in pain. He is neither unaware nor apathetic to those who suffer, especially children **Mark 10:14-16 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in.** That should give us pause, knowing we are accountable for the suffering we cause to others. The Lord Jesus cares for His followers and has laid down His life to demonstrate His love for them **1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.** . He will most assuredly comfort, vindicate, and heal them **John 10:11-15 . I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the father knows me and I know the Father and I lay down my life for the sheep.**

Prayers for healing from Abuse.

Gracious God, you created us in Your image and breathed life into us, a life You want us to live abundantly. We ask You to free (me or those) living with abuse physically, mentally or spiritually, from their oppression, so that they may walk in peace and enjoy a life full of Your blessings. In Jesus' name. O Lord, help us to be strong stewards of all You have entrusted to us. Give us the courage and Your strength to stand against violence inflicted upon (me/your) precious people. In Jesus' name. Almighty God, we pray for all victims of abuse. We ask you to surround (me/ them) with Your care and protect them by Your

loving might and permit them to enjoy health and healing, wholeness and strength, calmness and peace and love. Most of all, we pray that they feel Your presence and be confident in You. Merciful God, we give you thanks for your gift of strength and life and especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we have health and salvation. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to witness your power in our lives and to know your eternal love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God Bless!