

## Why Am I Pro-Life?

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Thought is the blossom; language the bud; action the fruit behind it." This encouraged me to think: Why am I pro-life? I never really took the time to stop and think, why exactly am I pro-life, and how has someone deciding against abortion affected my life? Well, it started in 2001, almost 7 years before I was born.

October 9, 2001, my brother Seth was born. After he was born, my parents found out that he was not going to be like most other children. He looked just like a normal baby, except that he had purple spots all over him. They eventually found out that Seth has Cytomegalovirus, which caused permanent disabilities, one of which being Cerebral Palsey. My parents were told he was going to be disabled for his entire life, would never talk, and possibly wouldn't live for more than a couple years.

When I was born I didn't realize that life for me would be affected by the decision my parents had made with Seth. All my life I had grown up with Seth and our older brother, acknowledging that Seth was different from everyone else but that didn't really matter. It didn't even come close to crossing my mind that someone else might've just decided to abort him had he been their child. Abortion didn't seem to be an option for my parents, and for that I am thankful.

My parents have been and always will be sacrificing and making things work with Seth. They never complain about the work that it takes to care for a child with a disability. They just accept him because God gave us Seth for a reason. Seth is a blessing to our family, just as any new baby is a blessing to a family.

Not all parents would have accepted this challenge. They might not have wanted to put in the long-term work and effort to provide a loving, happy life for their child if their

child was born with a disability. I am so thankful that my parents graciously accepted who God had given them. Without Seth, I believe that my life and my parents' lives would be lacking a lot of the joy that we have.

From personal experience, the joy that a disabled person can bring to the people around them and even random strangers they meet is immeasurable. Every baby deserves a chance at life. They all deserve a chance to give someone joy, to inspire other people, or even to change the world.

Although I have never really thought about why I am pro-life, I guess it's because I never considered a world without my big brother in it. Without him, my family wouldn't be whole. My hope is that other mothers will feel the same as mine, and can accept their baby as they are, so that every family can be whole.