Why Carry to Term

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Reasons and thoughts about carrying to term.

Once you receive a shocking diagnosis, you cannot go back to what life was like yesterday. From the moment of a serious prenatal diagnosis, your life is forever changed. Some people believe that terminating the pregnancy will reduce their suffering. It will not. No matter what you choose, the pain will be high. The price has been set. The Bad Thing has happened. There is no way you can turn back the clock and make life the way it was before. The question is, if you have to pay a price, what do you want in return for it? Termination gives you no gifts, just pain, guilt, and questions for the rest of your life. Carrying to term gives something back that is totally unexpected. When your baby is first diagnosed, you will not be able to foresee what your child can give you, even during a few more months of pregnancy. Because you have not yet lived with this hardship, you won't be aware of how you will grow through it. If you choose to see the gift, you will be given amazing rewards which you cannot begin to imagine now.

When our 7 year old son was diagnosed with Leukemia, we were shocked. Reality, as we knew it, crumbled. But we did not for a moment consider disposing of our son because he was defective and had a condition which we did not expect. We learned to care for him and we adapted. When our daughter was diagnosed prenatally with a potentially fatal form of dwarfism, we did not consider disposing of her either. Our commitment to her began when we chose to conceive and did not lessen because she had problems we had not anticipated. We chose to treat her the same as we had our older son. We learned what was necessary in order to care for her for as long as we could have her, and we adapted.