

# God's pain *VERSUS* the Enemy's pain

## The Important Difference

*“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:10-11*

*“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19*

## Light vs. Darkness

1 Peter 2:9 says that God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Think about the qualities of light: clear, not confused, not blurry, but bright, cheerful and hopeful. The opposite of light is darkness. Satan is the prince of darkness, meaning he is the prince of all things fearful, confused, indistinct, dim and forbidding. Anything of confusion, fear, or darkness is not from God.

## Life vs. Death

John 10:10 says that Christ came to give abundant life, not death. The qualities of abundant life are happiness, health, wholeness, strength, purity, spiritual success, and multiplication of blessing. The characteristics of death are disease, sickness, blindness, deafness, muteness, lameness, disorder, feebleness, erosion of strength, erosion of blessing and erosion of resources. *Anything that breeds these qualities of death in our life is not from God.*

## Father of Lights vs. Father of Lies

James 1:17 says that God is the Father of Lights in whom is no shadow of turning. In Scripture the Father of Lights is defined as the giver of good and perfect gifts, who is merciful, long-suffering, gentle, quick to forgive, strong to protect, able and eager to rescue us, and a tender deliver from all that would ensnare us. The enemy, on the other hand is the father of lies – a snuffer of life and hope, a condemner, a whisperer of fault, a noisome critic of the soul, a doubter of God's ability, a persecutor of the spirit, an advocate for the flesh, a constant diminisher of God's fatherly nature. Anything that causes us to lose hope or diminished our confidence in God is not from our Lord.

## Discipline vs. Abuse

Hebrews 12:5-7 compares Godly discipline to the discipline of a loving, devoted Father. This kind of discipline is expressed tenderly, in love, it is minimized to the level of need, brings about greater strength and health, and it is always presented with the hope of reconciliation and the fostering of even deeper intimacy with Him. The enemy works only in the arena of abuse. He is cruel, angry, harsh, extreme, breathes threats of abandonment and forsaking. Satan's abuse injures, makes sick, breaks the spirit and hinders and disrupts intimacy. Anything of an abusive nature that comes against us is not from God.

## Bridegroom vs. Harsh Husband

Christ is called our loving Bridegroom all throughout Scripture. A loving Bridegroom is a patient listener, affectionate, an advocate and rescuer, willing to give up His life to save, quick to respond

to the needs of His bride, words of love and kindness are constantly on his tongue, prayers are continually ebbing forth for the benefit of His Beloved. The enemy's ways are like that of a harsh husband; one who is impatient, cold and haughty, never pleased, distant, demanding, controlling, verbally and physically abusive, selfish and feigning tenderness only to get what he wants. Anything of the nature of a harsh husband that comes against us is not from God.

### **Shepherd vs. Roaring Lion**

John 10:11-15 defines Christ as a good shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. As our shepherd He is deeply interested and concerned in even the smallest matter, watchful, constantly alerted to the needs of His own. He never tires, He never sleeps. He is always looking upon His lambs with an affectionate gaze, ready to fight and defeat any fiend that would dare attack those under His care. Satan is defined as a roaring lion in 1 Peter 5:8. A roaring lion is the opposite of a good shepherd. He looks to control through fear instead of love. He rules through intimidation, not respect. He makes demands and threatens severe punishments if not obeyed. He makes the soul anxious and tense (rather than the absolute peace that is promised by the Shepherd in Psalm 23). The enemy roars loudly about his power and constantly yells, "Beware! The enemy is more powerful than you!" Anything of the "roaring lion" nature that comes against us is not from God.

### **When tempted to Doubt...Remember:**

"Sickness, suffering and death are the work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer." – *Ministry of Healing*, p. 113

*"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Gen. 50:20*

**The enemy (like a butcher) cuts to kill, God (as a surgeon) cuts to heal!**

*"It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes." Ps 119:71*

*"But He knoweth the way that I take. When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as God."  
Job 23:10*

*"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Rom 8:18*

When tempted to doubt the character of God and what He can do through you...remember the men and woman of Hebrews 11: "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Hebrews 11:33-34

Read again Psalms 91.

*These comparisons were originally written by Leslie Ludy and have been adapted by Melody Mason for the book "Daring to Ask for More," published by Pacific Press 2014.*