

## BEING HURT BY GOD, SO WE CAN BE USED BY GOD!©

By Keith Z. Yezdanian

**B**eing hurt by God so we can be used by God, this is surely an oxymoron or a contradiction for a lack of better words. Why would God hurt someone in order to use them? How could this even equate to good? If we could paint a picture of something so abstract, what would it even look like? Well let's start by getting some paint on our brush.

Many of us today have become so tolerable of all types of pain from emotional, mental and physical that we have come to the point that we are desensitized from it. We are so numb to our own pain that we start to project our pain outwardly to others. We have been taught by the world that we must be tough and that no matter how hard it gets we must press on! I am guilty of this very destructive mindset myself, I have been known to tell my oldest daughter "*to get used to hard work and to stop whining because that's what life's about.*" Now, I am certainly not saying that we shouldn't teach our children what it means to put in a good day's work, what I am saying though is this, we should learn to be a little less animalistic when it comes to each other. You see there is already a "**being**" prowling around this earth like a roaring Lion waiting to devour us and our children **1 Pet 5:8**. When we start to lash out at our children we are desensitizing them and soon they will no longer fear the Lion. So, why are we teaching our children that this roaring Lion is no more than a mere kitten?

Dip the brush!

Well I think part of the answer lies in **Eph 2: 1-3** this roaring Lion is also known as the prince of the airways. By allowing more of the world into our eyes and ears and less of God, we went from a people who **would**, to a people that **can't** or **won't**. We all watch TV from time to time and even during this, somewhat normal, pass time we are bombarded by news of parents killing children, children killing parents and natural disasters just to mention a few. We even have programs that promote all of these things and I am sure you can name a few and have even watched them. It's scary that we can sit and eat dinner with the local news on and slurp up our spaghetti while the reporter on T.V. talks about another child being shot. We can answer the phone and cry about our yards being squishy from the few inches of rain, after watching a report of thousands losing everything to a Tsunami. Now, I am sure you are thinking "*Keith this is not fair we can't do anything about that.*" And I ask you why? Why can't we do anything about it? How did we go from a people that **would** do something to a people that **can't**? Well I will tell you, we have allowed ourselves to be desensitized by the world.

Dip the brush!

OK Keith, what does this have to do with being hurt by God, to be used by Him? Are you saying God is allowing all this to happen so that He can use these people? I am not going to say either way if He is or not...That is Gods business, I am just writing down my observations and thoughts. I will however say this, isn't it strange that even though we have become so numb we can still find feeling enough to question God why? My next stroke of the brush will reinforce **Eph 2:1-3**. We never here about the good that God has done and we rarely share the good He has done for us to others. The media has turned the Holy names of God and Jesus into curse words that are bleeped out. Can you say "prince of the airways?" What is the last thing you remember

hearing about Christians through the media? I am sure your brain jumped to our Baptist brothers and sisters in Haiti. Now the reason I bring this up is because I can remember eating lunch at work and watching the news on CNN with a bunch of coworkers not a whisper of all the turmoil was heard as I prayed quietly for them, but as soon as the news broke with our Baptist brothers and sisters the silence was broken with a "There you go!" Hmm...The news was fine when it seemed God was absent but as soon as representatives of God hit the screen "Houston we have a problem" no armchair QB's here please! I remember reading something that Albert Einstein once wrote, in his writing he mentioned that darkness in itself does not exist; it is the absence of light that creates the darkness. Likewise evil in itself does not exist; it is the absence of God. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. I believe that we were born into sin and I also believe that we were born with an understanding and a sensitivity of God. And through time we allowed ourselves to become desensitized and numb!

Dip the brush!

I was back at UNC for my wife's second surgery. I had just paid for my breakfast and I was looking for a spot to sit down and eat. Now you have to understand I am not one for crowds, I don't like my back being exposed. Before I was a Christian I never had a need or a want to say anything to people. I could honestly say that I could have cared less what you thought or how you felt. God seems to be putting me in situations I don't like to be in. Now do these situations hurt? No but they are uncomfortable at times. As I grow as a Christian and of once being of the world, I understand the importance and the need to talk to people about what God has done in my life and more importantly what their future will be without Him. I have also found out how important it is to discern when God wants you to witness and when He does not. I have also learned when to stop ministering to people and when to allow God to use others to minister to you. Now I'm sharing this because as Christians we need to constantly train ourselves to become less of the world whether we are drinking milk or eating meat. We must be constantly learning how to filter out the ways of the world and allow only what is of God to enter our lives.

Dip the brush!

Well, back to breakfast I just grabbed some napkins and as I turned I spotted two men sitting down. As I approached them which only took 2 or 3 steps before I could ask if I could have a seat, the older of the two men said "sure we are all brothers in Christ!" And my response was something to the effect of if you only knew! What triggered such a cocky and yet receptive response from me? I don't have an answer. As I was studying these two men trying to make up for what I missed by such a quick response from them I noticed the older man James had a bag to his left sitting on a chair and mismatched clothes. He had a kind of familiar face on him. His gray afro showed just a hint of the wisdom he had. The younger of the two men Mike was stocky and had a familiar hardened look to him. He also had a cane resting on his outer leg.

Dip the brush!

As I started to search my spirit for words to say to these two men the older of the two, James asked, "What brings you here?" I told him that I was there for my wife and that is when they started to minister to me. I shared some of my disappointments, fears, trials, victories and recent achievements.

The younger man, Mike, broke his silence and said, "Friend sometimes God has to hurt you to use you!" I told him that I heard something like that before from a video clip on YouTube. Danny a homeless man told a camera crew that, "sometimes God has us walk through the valley and sometimes God leaves His soldiers in the valley." That is when Mike shared with me why he was there.

Here is a quick breakdown on Mike. He lived in N.Y.C. and "Chi Town" Chicago. Mike left Chi Town when he learned that his cousin and his cousins wife was shot in a drive by shooting. Mike shared that his cousin was a Christian and that he was shot in the ankle...the ankle and was killed instantly. He was shot in his ankle and died? His cousins' wife was also shot and she survived.

Now Mike shared with me that while living in N.Y. and Chi Town he was involved in gangs and everything that goes with it. We shared stories of the like and then he said, "Man, one day James came to me and started talking to me about God and His Son." Mike met James's niece and they later got married and more importantly Mike gave his life to Christ.

My curiosity got the best of me and I just had to ask why they were here. That is when Mike said, "Remember when I said that God sometimes has to hurt you to use you?" I replied, "Yeah man that made a lot of sense and at the same time it made no logical sense. Mike said, "I am about to help you with it! The reason why we are here is because a while back I was shot." He then laughed and said, "Man, I survived N.Y, Chi and I turn my life around and then I get shot in N.C. Man, when I was shot I didn't know it, I was walking next thing I know I was laying on this little girl. I thought I tripped or something but when I went to get up I couldn't move. It turns out that I was shot in the leg and my femur was shattered by a 4-5 or .45 cal."

If Mike didn't take that bullet the little girl would have surly been killed. Mike told me later he found out that the little girl was also the little sister to a street gang's boss. Now we all know the impact this would have had on the streets. Mike then finished with, "my man you see sometimes God has to hurt you to use you!!!"

Dip and shake!

Now how does this all tie in together? You see just as the secular world has become numb so has many of us Christians. We have gotten so comfortable in our happy, comfy and cozy pews that we start to become so desensitized to the true message of the Bible. We start to believe that just being in church on Sunday is all we are supposed to do. **We are called to be a light in the darkness not just a light that shines when others can see.** We are to be set apart not to be camouflage in the wilderness. We can become our own media. We sit in our Christian Lazy Boys, drink our Jesus pop, snack on our Gospel chips and flip the channels on our gossip sets. Christians we must separate ourselves **we must join Gods Gym and become active in the world.** And we must not look at being hurt by God not the way the world looks at it but we must face it as learning what a good day of work is to the Lord! AMEN

*"Being Hurt By God, So We Can Be Used By God!"* was written 10 March 2010