### Good Pain: Pain used as a Tool for Good

The purpose of this document is to define pain. To understand the Bible, we must understand pain. The Bible defines pain as a tool for Good. If you know the Bible, can you think of any reference in the Bible to pain that is not presenting it as a tool for good? Sin causes pain. On his cross Jesus suffered the pain of our sin. Even after we are Christians, the pain of our sin causes us to seek Mercy. The Bible says a lot about pain, and it is always presented as a tool for good.

### **Every Deed is a Tool for Good**

God is in control, and he has designed us so that everything we do is for good. In other words, even the things we do in ignorance, God uses for good. Like a good parent using discipline (pain) on his child, it hurts God that we should suffer pain for our sin. Since his design was not our idea, He even promises to reward us later for that suffering. In Chapter Eleven or Revelation Three of her Sixteen Revelations, Julian of Norwich (Fourteenth Century) begins to explain the use of the pain of sin as a tool for good. From my business model of her revelations here is my translation in business terms of what she said in old English:

## In Chapter 11 Julian

### Explains how God uses evil for good

In Chapter 11 Julian I believe explains how God uses even evil for his good; then, he throws it away.

#### God is in control

In business terms she is saying all processes of God and God's creation are done well, and God controls them all. Another way to say it is all people are operating as they were designed to operate. People have free will and since Jesus' death have been free to operate with God. Without God, that same design produces sin. Since sin goes against our design, it produces internal conflict that helps us realize our need for God.

### Sin turns us to God for help

Our soul is designed for good, and that design conflicts with our sinful nature. This trouble in our soul is designed to turn us to God for help. In this way, sin has the same purpose as God's law, to turn us to God for help.

## Summary Chapter 11: God uses evil for good

In Chapter 11 Julian I believe explains how God uses even evil for his good; then, he throws it away. Sin turns us to God.

### Other Chapters that define Pain as a Tool for Good

For the last two years or so I have been translating Julian's ancient work of understanding into the general language of business. Since her book had a great impact on Martin Luther and other reformers, she is important in Church history. I believe General Business Language is the best tool to bring this fundamental understanding to us now. Here are some other of her Revelations and their Chapters that define pain:

Revelation 5 (Chapter 13) The Purpose of our Enemy; Revelation 7 (Chapter 15) The Purpose of our Feelings; Revelation 8 (Chapter 16+) Jesus' Pain; and Revelation 13 (Chapters 27, 29, 32, 37, 38 and 39) The Purpose of Sin.

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