

Holding On ~ to the Wrong Thing

By Christina Dixon

Swoosh! Over I went. My moment of relaxation abruptly ended. I had been enjoying the soothing ebb and flow of the wave pool during my granddaughter's birthday party at the Metropark. Now I was in eight feet of water gasping for breath. As I came up for air the first time, I heard my daughter, Elayna's fear filled call. "Momma!!"

Just about that time, I went under a huge wave. I began to struggle desperately for the plastic tube I'd been sitting in. As the wave passed over, I bobbed up for air. I could see my daughter and nephew, Joseph, swimming toward me as fast as they could. Under I went again, still grasping to get a better grip on my plastic tube.

Knowing I can be a bit of a clown at times, the next time I came up, my daughter asked, "Momma, are you okay?" "Yep, but nope," I responded, as under I went again.

With wisdom I am most grateful for, my daughter and nephew held the tube until I bobbed back up into it safely. "Whew! Thanks ya!!!" My daughter, whose facial expression revealed both relief and anger said, "Next time let go of the raft and swim toward shallow water!!!"

Daaaaaa! That's right! If I had simply let go of the raft I could have swam to the five-foot depth, which was less than ten feet away. And with the waves going, I would have been standing on my own feet in much less time than I spent darn near drowning; not to mention scaring folks to death.

As I write this I smile because wisdom is often just that simple. But in

our desire to do things, a certain way, we lose sight of wisdom. Consequently, many times we end up holding on to the wrong things.

How about you? Are you going under - again? Has something suddenly turned you over, leaving you in over your head?

Are you responding like I did? Are you desperately holding on to the wrong things only to find yourself drowning? Permit me to encourage you to let go of your way of doing things. Allow the Lord to use others to bring a sense of safety and stability to those moments when your determination to make it on your own isn't working.

When I told my daughter, "Yep, but nope," it was because I believed that I'd eventually gain stability on my own. Yet, at the same time, I realized that I wasn't doing as well as I'd hoped. I needed help.

When we are filled with God's Spirit, we have access to wisdom. But, when we hold on to the wrong things, we find ourselves drowning in the kind of focused determination that threatens to kill any divine wisdom we may possess. Our determination can blind us to the reality of its sometimes insidious and sinful nature.

The Apostle Paul said that we should, "lay aside every weight and the sin that easily besets us" (Hebrews 12:1). If you're drowning in overwhelming circumstances, make sure you aren't holding on to the wrong thing with sinful determination to do things yourself.

Seek the Lord for wisdom to know the truth. He's promised to give it, if we would just simply ask (James 1:5).



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