

## A WATER-SKIING ANALOGY

I was reading 1 John 5:1-5 one morning, and an analogy came to me. This is not an analogy about becoming a Christian. It's an analogy about Christians choosing to live their lives for Christ as their Lord and Master in everything. This is the scripture passage:

"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (Verses 3-5)

That word "overcome" kept coming back to me, and it reminded me of when I went water-skiing.

Years ago, at about the age of 12, we used to water-ski and also tie an inner tube to the back of the boat. As the boat took off, there was a period when I had the hardest time, for water was going both over and under the inner tube and flooding my face, my nostrils, and my eyes! I had to do whatever it took to stick with it. I would hold my breath or turn my head so I could get a breath of air. It was a constant struggle, fighting between water and air.

Then came that moment when we gained enough speed that the inner tube lifted out of the water and hydroplaned. It was beautiful as it skipped above the water that had once threatened to do me in. Now I could breathe deeply of that fresh air!

I see the Christian life like this. The water represents the world and its desires. The air represents the blessings of living life filled with the Spirit, a life of obedience to God. There have been times in my walk with Christ when I was stuck, gasping for air, one part of me desiring to live for Christ, the other part of me content with the status quo, not wanting to give my entire life over to him in complete submission and obedience. After gasping for air (for years!), it finally dawned on me that I didn't need to live that way. God had revealed all along that there was a better way, if only I was willing to have faith and believe, believe that I truly am an over-comer, overcoming the world, as I submit to Christ. Once I made that decision to obey him in everything, I started to hydroplane in life. I had risen above the murk of the world that had choked me. This isn't to say that there were fewer trials in my life! The victory was mine, and the power to obtain that victory was through Jesus Christ!

The victory had already been won for me when Jesus died on the cross, but before hydroplaning I hadn't claimed that victory in my daily life. Oh foolish man that I was! I knew the answer, but had not applied it to my life. I had the Holy Spirit in me, I was born again, but I was just like when I was in the inner tube, sucking up water when I could have been hydroplaning.

Hydroplaning in the spiritual sense is walking with God on a moment-by-moment basis,

seeking his will in all my ways. This is when God's love is truly manifested in our lives in a very powerful way, and when that love overflows from our lives to the lives of those around us in a much more powerful way. If we are in Jesus Christ, we are already over-comers. We can all hydroplane.

I remember that we had a boat that didn't have much horsepower. When my Dad got on the inner tube, we opened up the throttle all the way and still couldn't get him to hydroplane. We had a great time teasing him over that one! Thank God that God's boat has enough power for all of us. Let us all hydroplane together!

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