

Freedom

Marty and I were on our honeymoon last week in Hawaii. We decided to take a large boat over to a small island for a day of snorkeling. There were many people on the boat and we got to know a few on the way over. One person in particular that caught our attention was a man about my age, who was bound to a wheel chair. I could tell he did not have the use of his legs and limited use of his arms. I thought this was odd since we were going to swim and it would be a very difficult task for him. After arriving at the place we were going to be diving, low and behold, I look up to see them lowering this man into the water. Salt water allows you to float very well, so he actually was floating along with his mask on. I am sure he was enjoying freedom that was unfamiliar to him. You could sort of feel the excitement of everyone who was watching from the boat. We were all thinking the same thing. "Isn't that great! He is able to do be out of his wheelchair and swim". Later, the atmosphere changed however, when the music on the boat stopped and the captain came over the loud speaker and said, "Is there a doctor on the boat? We have a man with a heart problem on the back deck". There was obvious panic on the boat and Marty and I hurried to find each other. Just as we did, we saw what was going on. The Man in the wheelchair was lying on the deck not breathing and holding his heart. Marty and I quickly bowed and prayed for him and then watched in horror as they tried to revive him. Amazingly, within a few minutes, he had been resuscitated and was sitting up in his wheelchair talking. I could hear them telling him over and over again, "No I am sorry, but I can't let you go back into the water". The man was begging to get back in! It is amazing what we humans will do for freedom.

I had to think about this story in light of us. As clients sit in my counseling office, I am amazed to see what length people will go for what feels like freedom. Those that aren't yet Christians may seek freedom through money, relationships, respect, work, alcohol, drugs, adultery, etc..., come to think of it, Christians do the same. We all try to find freedom from what keeps us down, but the reality is that freedom comes completely from knowing Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and then trusting Him that a life of service to Him is worth it. We so often think that obeying God's will is binding and that freedom will come from the things that are displeasing to Him. There is nothing more freeing than letting go of the things that worry or concern me and letting God handle them.

Letting Go and Letting God equals freedom!