



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

January 2019

***He has made us ABLE MINISTERS of the new testament;
not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life!***

Three of our grandchildren were here prior to school. As we chatted, I reminded them that, “because Jesus lives inside you, you can represent Jesus at school today. You can be helpful and kind. If you see someone being mean to another, you can smile and say something nice to them. If somebody drops their books on the floor, you can help pick them up instead of laughing. And, I know you will be cooperative and respectful of your teacher.”

I reminded them again, just before they hopped out of the car in front of the school. “Remember, you have Jesus inside you, helping you today.”

They came back to our house after school. As they sat at the counter having their snack, they told their stories, each reporting that they had opportunity to demonstrate Jesus that day. In fact, one of them said he had TWO stories.

How wonderful that at the age of seven, eight, and nine, they are recognizing that they are “able ministers” of Jesus Christ and can touch a life for Christ!

I don’t say this to myself every single morning, but I like to get up with the awareness and purpose that,
TODAY, I am an ABLE MINISTER of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I WILL make a difference for Christ today, in my little corner of planet earth!

I will smile at a sad face; speak an encouraging word; pray for a sick person; give to a needy individual; tell someone about Jesus and His love!

YES, somehow, somewhere, sometime today, I WILL make a difference for Christ BECAUSE I am an ABLE MINISTER of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

In fact, here are a few pertinent scriptures which exhort us to “make that difference” for Christ:

I will ...encourage an anxious friend. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

...offer hospitality without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)

...carry another person’s burden. (Galatians 6:2)

...show kindness and compassion. (Ephesians 4:32)

...forgive the one who offends me. (Colossians 3:13)

...not be ashamed of the testimony about my Lord! (2 Timothy 1:8)

Through all this, I will ***spur others on toward love and good deeds!*** (Hebrews 10:24)

So, to all you **able ministers**, I say
Be empowered by God today!

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)



As 2019 begins, many individuals and families find it helpful to ask the Lord to guide them to a single word or theme for the year. It is often amazing how the Lord reinforces the significance of that word, throughout the events of the year. Consider giving this a try... compile and memorize Scripture verses related to your chosen topic. Ask God to show you how to practically apply that word in your daily living. Here are some examples of 12 words you might consider... Pray, Obey, Trust, Joy, Delight, Wait, Hope, Peace, Love, Consecrate, Expectation, Content. Perhaps you might want to focus on one each month. To help get you started, we've provided a verse for each of these words. But whether you choose one of these, or something totally different that the Lord impresses on you, may the coming twelve months be a time of fruitful growth for you and your family!

Pray: I Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the men **pray** everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

Obey: Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to **obey** God rather than men."

Trust: Proverbs 3:5-6 **Trust** in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Joy: Nehemiah 8:10 Do not sorrow, for the **joy** of the Lord is your strength.

Delight: Psalm 37:4 **Delight** yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Wait: Psalm 27:14 **Wait** on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!

Hope: Psalm 71:14 But I will **hope** continually, and will praise You yet more and more.

Peace: Philippians 4:6-8 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Love: Mark 12:30,31 And you shall **love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

Consecrate: Leviticus 20:7 **Consecrate** yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Expectation: Psalm 62:5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my **expectation** is from Him.

Content: Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be **content** with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."



Sharon Charles

Open Arms Childbirth Class

**Five Consecutive Thursdays
April 4 - May 2, 2019**

Taught by an experienced childbirth educator, this class covers the same information offered in a hospital course, but includes a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will meet and connect with other expectant couples and gain many practical helps as you prepare for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course. Please register by contacting the ALM office (see contact information below).



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