



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

July 2019

***You were taught to PUT OFF your old self,
which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;
and to PUT ON the new self,
created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.***

Ephesians 4:22,24

"I don't think I could do that. I would only be 'putting on!' I would feel like such a fake!" The lady reacting to my wife's gentle exhortation was not inclined to "be nice" toward her husband when she felt so angry and hurt by what he had done.

Sharon calmly responded that, "Well, if what we put on is a good thing to put on... then it's okay to 'put on!'" (Pretty logical, right?) "Putting on just means we PURPOSE to do something or become something BEFORE we really feel like doing it."

Then she added, with a touch of humor, "After all, we do so many things we don't 'feel' like doing. I got up an hour early today to do a quick cleaning of the house before tonight's guests arrive... not because I FELT like it but simply because I knew I should. And then, leaving home a little bit late to come meet with you, I hit four red lights! I sure didn't FEEL like sitting at those red lights, but I DID... simply because I knew I should."

My obedience...
My "putting on" the new self
demonstrates my trust in God...
that HE knows BEST...
in every situation!

Put OFF. Put ON! There are quite a number of such instructions in scripture. Next time you're on the internet, search for "put on scriptures" and you'll quickly find a slew of them. Not all of them use the specific words "put on" or "put off," but the meaning is very clear.

For starters, read Ephesians 4:22-32 (we're instructed to put AWAY bitterness, anger, clamor, evil speaking, malice) and also Colossians 3:8-12 (we're instructed to put ON kindness, humility, tenderness, meekness, longsuffering).

So, let's not be fakes... but let's "PUT ON!" Trusting that God's instructions are ALWAYS the best, let's obediently BE and DO what HE asks us to... we will be a brighter light... showing the way to Jesus!

Let's all PUT ON for HIM!

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

P.S. I find myself writing what I seem to write every summer... THANKING those of you who contribute so regularly to ALM's ongoing ministry and INVITING others to help pick up the slack which seems to hit ministries so hard over the summer months. Thank you so very much!



Sharon's P.S. to John's letter...

A story is told of a man who decided to purchase a large home for his family. He arranged all the necessary financing and completed all the needed paperwork. Finally the day arrived when the real estate settlement was to be completed.

When he sat across the table from the seller, he was surprised by what the gentleman announced... "Here's the key to the house. As you know, the house has ten rooms. You may have eight of them, but I have reserved two rooms for myself."

"What?" exclaimed the buyer. "But I bought your whole house!"

"Yes," the man replied, "but I want to keep four tigers in one room and the other I want to fill with poisonous reptiles. I want them to remain in those rooms."

The buyer responded, "If you mean what you say, I wouldn't take your house, even if you were to offer to give it to me for free! You expect me to move my family into a house where one room is full of tigers and another is full of vipers? That would be crazy!"

John's letter talked about the importance of "putting off" and "putting on." This story illustrates yet another important choice we all ought to make... the choice to "put away" or "put off" or "put out" those things that can be dangerous to our own spiritual life and the spiritual lives of our family members.



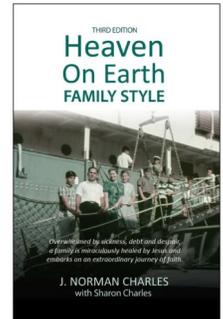
Many individuals claim to have given their hearts to God, only to have reserved a couple of rooms for the "wild beasts" of sin to remain. It will only be a matter of time until those dangerous "house-mates" do serious harm. We need

to choose to empty every room of our hearts if we really want the Lord to take over the total ownership of our lives!

Heaven on Earth Family Style AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON **\$12.99 paperback (plus tax, S&H)** **or \$9.99 (plus tax) for Kindle edition**

In *Heaven on Earth, Family Style*, Norm shares the amazing story of how he and his wife encountered Jesus in a powerful way, regaining health and wholeness, and beginning an incredible adventure of faith.

Once dairy farmers from rural Pennsylvania, Norman and Betty Charles and their family spent ten years as missionaries in Brazil. Returning to Lancaster County, they launched Abundant Living Ministries, a Christian counseling ministry which helps families and individuals discover and apply God's life-changing principles.



Lay Christian Counselor Training

6 Monday evenings: Oct 7-Nov 11, 2019
7:00-9:00 PM
\$120 per person or \$150 per couple

Designed for those who wish to be more effective people helpers within the Christian community.

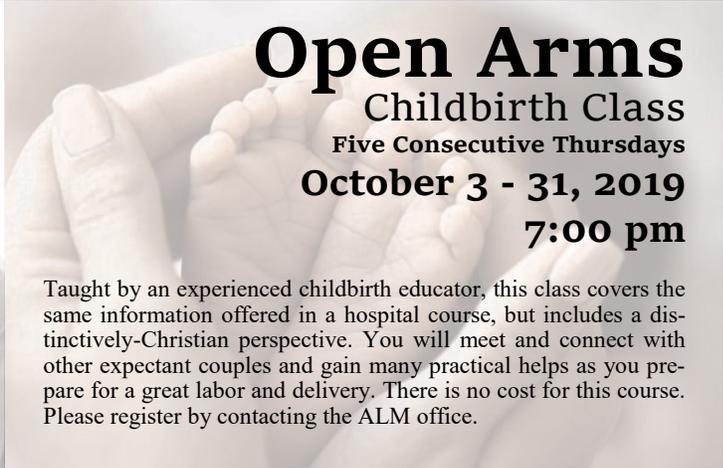
Please register no later than September 20th by calling the ALM office or emailing Chris at info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org



Open Arms Childbirth Class

Five Consecutive Thursdays
October 3 - 31, 2019
7:00 pm

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.



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