



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

May 2021

As I recuperated from cardiac bypass surgery 21 years ago, I had some L O N G days, feeling very weak and tired. For several weeks, it seemed my best friend was my old green recliner. I lacked the physical energy to do much of anything.

Sharon would approach me and suggest I come downstairs to the kitchen for something to eat, or perhaps accompany her on a walk. My frequent reply was, "I would have to **get up** to do that, wouldn't I?" Although it did not seem humorous to me at the time, the phrase has now become a line we both use, when we're feeling tired or unmotivated. It makes us laugh and inevitably we end up doing what we need to do.

It is interesting how frequently God commanded His children to "Get up!" Consider the following few examples:

God tells Moses to "get up" and go to speak to Pharaoh. (Exodus 8:20)

God tells Joshua to "get up" and consecrate the children of Israel. (Joshua 7:13)

God tells Gideon to "get up" and go to the Midianite camp. (Judges 7:9)

God tells Elijah to "get up" and eat. (I Kings 19:5)

God tells Ezekiel to "get up" and go to a plain where He would speak with him. (Ezekiel 3:22)

Jesus tells Peter, James and John to "get up" and not be afraid. (Matthew 17:7)

Jesus tells a lame man to "get up" and pick up his mat and walk. (Luke 5:24)

God tells Paul to "get up" and go into Damascus and wait to be told what to do. (Acts 22:10)

As I think back to 21 years ago, I realize that, when I simply **chose** to take the **first step**... I was re-energized, encouraged and strengthened. I didn't **FEEL** like taking that first step... but it was that **first step that got me going!**

Mom used to say that feelings are like the caboose of a train. It is the engine that powers the train and gets it to its destination. The caboose will always arrive at the same station as the engine, just a tad bit later. I believe that God, in His wisdom, knows that there are often seasons in His children's lives when they need to be instructed to use their **WILL** (the locomotive) to **"get up"** and obey Him. In time, the feelings will catch up.

Are you struggling with spiritual fatigue, lack of drive, feelings of indifference towards Scripture, prayer or church involvement? Perhaps the Lord is saying to you and all of us today, "I love you, My child... Let **ME** help you. **Just get up** and do what I've instructed. I assure you that I will be by your side, to strengthen you and refresh you!"

As we GET UP and GO!

John Charles (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)



Please notice our new MAILING address: 400 E. 4th Ave, Lititz, PA 17543

Our PHYSICAL LOCATION for ministry remains the same.

This is a transition over the next months. You may continue to use
Preprinted Return Envelopes which still show the old address.



Manners Matter

Question: I was recently at the grocery store and witnessed an elementary-age child screaming at her mother. She pushed rudely in front of another customer and ran out of the store, disregarding her mother's call to wait. Crossing the parking lot, she threw her candy wrapper on the pavement. When the mom and younger sibling arrived at the car, this girl punched the little brother and once again began yelling at her parent.

It seems I observe this type of behavior more and more. I want my children to do better. Or, is common courtesy a thing of the past?

Response: Manners are more than knowing which fork to use at a fancy dinner. They are a way to show honor and consideration to others. In placing huge emphasis on each person wanting to **feel good about themselves**, our culture has unfortunately diminished kindness and thoughtfulness **towards others**.

The good news is that it is definitely possible for Christian families to instill manners in their children. But, like all good values, they must be taught at home in the day-to-day routines of family life.

Dads and Moms set the tone. Children observe how their parents treat each other. If angry jabs, sarcasm,

criticism and rude talk are the norm, it should be no surprise when the next generation follows that example.

Start with something simple, like requiring ALL family members to use "Please," "Thank you," and "You're welcome!" as a regular habit. Purchase a book to help you brush up on proper etiquette. Read a chapter at the dinner table and discuss how the family can implement its ideas. Role play situations to give the children practice acting and speaking politely... e.g. how to introduce a friend, how to respond when being introduced, how to behave in church or at a social gathering, how to address teachers, store employees, or other adults. Read stories about historical characters who exemplified excellent treatment of others. Purpose to clean up even casual conversation... quite frankly, Christian homes could use a



lot fewer references to private anatomy, bodily functions and sexual activities. Make crude talk and questionable jokes off-limits for your family.

The Bible states that, "a child left to himself disgraces his mother." In other words, proper behavior doesn't just automatically spring up in a little one. It must be taught, encouraged, required and practiced. When it is, gracious ladies and chivalrous gentlemen are the result.

God knows that when we "honor one another above ourselves," through basic courteous behavior, this consideration for others will actually produce the greatest happiness in the individual and the most satisfying interpersonal relationships. Manners are a practical demonstration of love and respect for others. And that's definitely God's way of living!



Written by
Sharon Charles

Open Arms Childbirth Class

**Four Consecutive Thursdays
July 8-29, 2021, 7-9pm**

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

Contact Information

Mailing Address: 400 E 4th Avenue, Lititz, PA 17543
Physical Location: 541 W 28th Division Hwy, Lititz, PA 17543
Website: www.AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Email: info@AbundantLivingMinistries.org
Phone: (717) 626-9575 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/alm4u