



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

November 2021

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
For His steadfast love endures forever!**

Make known His deeds among the peoples! *Psalm 107:1 and 105:1*

THE LORD IS GOOD! We want to MAKE KNOWN His deeds! In fact, ***Every good gift is from above!*** (James 1:17)

Sharon and I are so blessed! We are blessed with children and grandchildren who love the Lord and enjoy good health; blessed to enjoy warmth in a nice house; blessed by friendly neighbors; blessed with enough finances that we can give to others; blessed to be part of a church fellowship where the truth and gospel of Jesus Christ are clearly taught!

But let's ask – When life is NOT going the way we hope... is God STILL good? When our prayers seem to be unanswered... is God STILL good? When illness strikes or financial hardship rears its head... is God STILL good?

**Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thess. 5:18***

Yes, God IS GOOD, even during times of hardship. He is good ALL the time... it is HIS VERY NATURE! The truth is: God uses the "problem" to bring about His ETERNAL purposes and to conform me more and more into the very image of Jesus Christ. (See Romans 8:28-29.) As I learn to see God's ETERNAL purposes accomplished during my difficult times, I can actually reminisce with gratitude, "Oh yes, I remember that devastating event and those difficult times. God, YOU ARE SO GOOD... SO REDEMPTIVE! What the enemy intended for evil, You have used for good. Thank You, Lord, for using those most-painful situations to conform me more into the image of Jesus!"

Lord – May I give thanks in ALL THINGS!
John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

NOVEMBER 19
EXTRAGIVE.ORG

On November 19, donate online at [ExtraGive.org](https://extragive.org) and your generous gift will go even further thanks to the Stretch Pool and Prizes from the Community Foundation and our extraordinary sponsors.

Help us go the EXTRA mile together!

The instructions are pretty simple:

1. On Friday, November 19 (midnight to midnight), go to the website ***ExtraGive.org***.
2. Click in the SEARCH field (top right, by the symbol of a magnifying glass). Search for ***Abundant Living Ministries***.
3. Submit your gift by credit card. An email receipt, for tax purposes, will be sent by ExtraGive.
4. That's it! ExtraGive will forward your gift, PLUS the amount from the Stretch Pool, to ALM.

Great Sayings

Families will soon be gathering for Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Conversation around the dinner table sometimes flows easily and remains pleasant. In other homes, the subject matter quickly turns adversarial and unpleasant. Here's an idea you may wish to follow, keeping your Thanksgiving table-talk in a positive and beneficial vein...

Ask guests to quote a favorite proverb, scripture, or saying. You might want to send out your request ahead of time, so that attendees have time to think about it. Or, simply compile several of your own and distribute them at the meal to be read aloud. What a great and enjoyable way to encourage the guests at your table. It can jumpstart wholesome discussion, and bring some hearty laughs as you remember the events at which certain things were said. It's a non-threatening exercise in which all can participate.

Here are a few I can offer to get started:

Grandma Charles: "There's so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us, it hardly behooves any of us to complain about the rest of us!"

My father (adding a few words to Psalms 37:23): "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord... and also the STOPS!"

Mom Charles: "It is often said that 'you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.' That may be true but... you can throw salt in the horse's oats and make him thirsty!"

"Your greatest contribution may not be something you do, but someone you raise." Unknown

"Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting." Joyce Meyer

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Unknown

"You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending." C. S. Lewis

"A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up!" (Proverbs 15:1)

"A ship in the harbor is safe, but that is not what a ship is for." Unknown

May you and your family enjoy sharing your own nuggets of wisdom as you gather this *thanksgiving* season! And may your hearts be filled with gratitude to God, the true Source of all wisdom!



Written by
Sharon Charles

Everyone loves a good story...especially at Christmas! ***Christmas Tales that Warm the Heart Volumes 1 and 2*** (each with 12 stories)

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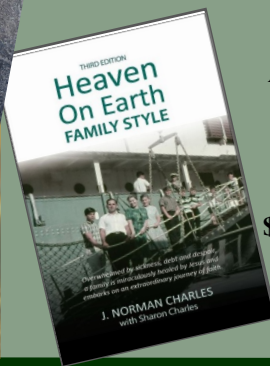
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