



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

August 2023



Sharon and I were just chatting on the phone with friends. The wife recently had a couple of strokes, facing very-serious physical challenges. But... Praise GOD, she has been regaining full health at a remarkably-fast rate. While so grateful for the care she received from physicians and the hospital, she and her husband both expressed their deep appreciation to GOD HIMSELF... our great physician!

We were in our office as we talked. Uplifting music was playing quietly in the corner and, staring me in the face was the plaque of my favorite hymn: **Great is Thy Faithfulness**. Our middle son Tim gave the wooden plaque to me for Christmas a couple years ago. I immediately hung it on the wall, to the right of my office computer. I sing or contemplate the lyrics quite often: **Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand has provided... Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Just yesterday, as I enjoyed lunch with a friend, I commented, "I have no idea why God has been so kind, so gracious, so generous toward Sharon and me. His forgiveness, His salvation, His provision, His protection, His teaching, His patience, His blessing in so very many ways is beyond understanding!

In light of this, why would we NOT sing?

**Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
Cry out to the rock of our salvation. (Psalm 95:1)**

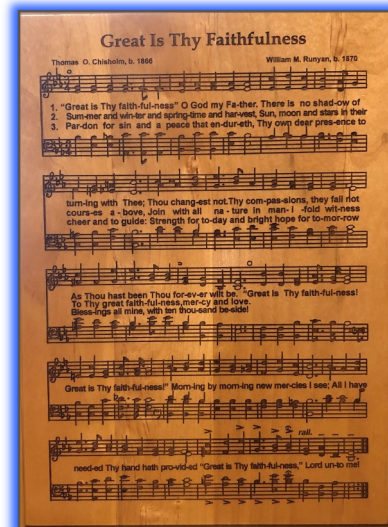
**My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you;
My soul also, which you have redeemed. (Psalm 71:23)**

**Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works! (Psalm 105:2)**

**I will sing of Your strength, in the morning I will sing of Your love;
For You are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psalm 59:16)**

Let's SING His praises (I guess SPEAKING His praises also counts)!

- John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)

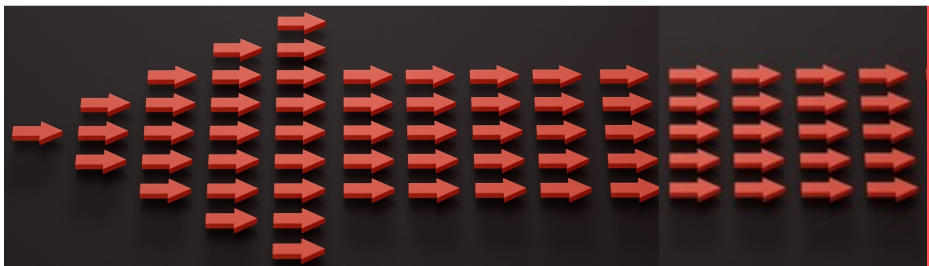


Open Arms Childbirth Class

Four Consecutive Thursday evenings
October 5 - 26, 2023
Class Time 7:00 - 9:00 pm

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 prepare for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course. **Register by contacting the ALM office.**





Countering Culture

Following are a few statements heard commonly in conversations and via many media sources. These have been repeated so often that much of the population now accepts them as truth.

The Bible addresses these issues with principles that are counter-our-culture. It is so important that we Christians refresh ourselves on God's instructions and guidelines, so we don't fall prey to these societal lies.

Let's look at just a few of these cultural ideas. They are not always spoken... but they are clearly demonstrated. Have you heard these messages? And what does God, through scripture, say in response?

***I'm entitled to hang out with anyone I want to.
No one gets to tell me who my friends are.***

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Prov. 13:20)

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared. (Prov. 22:24,25)

Do not envy the wicked, do not desire their company. (Prov. 24:1)

***I'm entitled to acquire and/or
enjoy life's pleasures.***

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world. (1 John 2:15,16)

The deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. (Mark 4:19)

I'm entitled to tell others exactly what I'm thinking.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)

I'm entitled to my feelings. I can't help how I feel.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (Ephesians 4:31)

Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

... bestow on them... the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. (Isaiah 61:3)

***I'm entitled to practice my religion
in any way that feels comfortable to me.
I don't need to attend church or
subscribe to any particular doctrine.***

Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)

There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Tim. 2:5)

The Bible says we will have full joy and pleasure forevermore when we follow God's path (Psalm 16:11). A "ME" mentality never brings lasting fulfillment. So, don't be misled by culture... instead, be led by God's truth. It will always take you and your family in the right direction!

Written by
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