

JANUARY 2024

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ON THE AIR



I pray you will desire to serve Christ and go deeper with Him than you ever have before!

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



INSIGHT FOR LIVING MINISTRIES

Rest Assured

This Year, Live Abundantly in Christ and Cultivate a Deeper Relationship with Him



Imagine the Lord speaking directly to you: “Rest assured, I have complete control. Please do not feel burdened to fix everything because I am fully capable and knowledgeable.”

It’s one thing to read these words, but experiencing the Lord’s peace in your life is a completely different matter. Know that He is present with you and wants you to live in complete freedom in Him.

As we entered 2023, many of us witnessed a lack of peace and contentment in the world, and moving into 2024, the sentiment persists. However, the Lord has given us a remarkable gift . . . the ability to dwell abundantly in Him. He wants us to embrace His peace, so let’s wholeheartedly receive it.

In this edition of *Insights*, Chuck encourages each of us to live abundantly in Christ and cultivate a deeper relationship with Him. I urge you to focus your efforts in 2024 on surrendering everything to Christ.

At Insight for Living Ministries, our commitment throughout this next year is to equip you with the necessary tools for your journey with Christ. We are here to listen to your concerns and provide sound, theological answers to your questions. We will also intercede for you daily, fully aware that our Lord already has everything under control and will be by your side every step of the way.

Charissa Swindoll Gaither

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The Timely

Benefits of



Abundant life in Christ is found through our wholehearted submission to Him and His Word.

by Pastor Chuck Swindoll

A line from William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* comes to mind as I think of starting this new year:

*If you can look into the seeds of time
And say which grain will grow and
which will not,
Speak then to me . . .*

Wouldn't it be great to peer far into 2024 and see how it will unfold? You could know for sure if you needed to take that trip . . . look for a new job . . . have that conversation . . . make that move . . . or sell that investment.

Well, no one can know with certainty which plan will bloom and which will droop. But our Lord gives us

direction that comes with a promise. Jesus said:

*"I came so that they would
have life, and have it
abundantly."*

(John 10:10 NASB)

Jesus suffered and rose again so that you might have abundant life—the kind of life He intended you to have! That's His desire for you and me this year and every year!

In a letter earlier this month, I expressed the path toward that abundant life: *abiding in Christ by making His Word at home in our hearts* (John 15:7). If you were to ask me to offer a theme for you to focus on in 2024, that would be it . . . **abide**.

Why? Because abiding in Christ produces the abundant life He promised.

But, before I jump into what the abundant life is, I want to clarify what it isn't. Jesus' invitation to an abundant life is not a ticket to paradise on earth where there's no pain, no hardship, no failure, and no discouragement (John 16:33). Jesus' invitation to follow Him never promised a fail-safe retirement plan, a lavish home, friction-free relationships, and endless ease on this side of heaven.

What can we expect, then?

Here are four benefits that help paint a portrait of the abundant life Christ intends for us to experience and that you can anticipate when you abide in Him: *freedom, courage, joy, and confidence*.

First, *you can expect the freedom of releasing the wheel*. Life in Christ will loosen your tight grip because you can't control or manipulate it according to your own plans. Remember to keep your hands open this year. God is in control. Abundant life in Christ allows you to receive what God has ahead of you—whatever it may be.

Christ's Abundant Life



Second, *you can expect the courage to ignore worldly voices.* Your cues come from Christ and not those who operate from a limited, human perspective. My late friend, Clyde Cook, a past president of Biola University, had a plaque on his desk paraphrasing a Herbert Bayard Swope quote that read, “I don’t know the secret of success, but I do know the secret of failure: try to please everybody.” Abundant life in Christ reminds you that you serve only one master—even if it offends some people.

Third, *you can expect the joy of soaring above worry.* Forget the heavy drag of fear, superstition, angst, and negativity. Instead of rolling out of bed to check the latest crises in the news, you can first focus on who and what God has placed within your circle of influence and say, “Lord, I’m Yours. Today is Yours.”

Fourth, *you can expect the confidence to risk doing God’s will.* Life in Christ requires a measure of risk—as does all of life! This tongue-in-cheek poem reminds me that I wasn’t called to play it safe:

*There was a very cautious man
Who never laughed or played.
He never risked, he never tried,
He never sang or prayed.*

*And when he one day passed away,
His insurance was denied.
For since he never really lived,
They claimed he never died.*

What a waste! Only through risk can we live up to our full, God-given potential. Abundant life in Christ inspires us to take steps of faith for God and watch Him do the unexpected in us, for us, and through us.

As you contemplate the year ahead, I pray you will desire to serve Christ and go deeper with Him than you ever have before! To help tie all these thoughts together, I’ll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from the late missionary Jim Elliot: **“Wherever you are, be all there! Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.” Amen!**



Christ gives us abundant life to share with others and receive from others. The abundant life comes through authentic, Spirit-filled community.



Charissa Swindoll Gaither, Pastor Chuck and Cynthia Swindoll’s daughter, is excited to lead Insight for Living Ministries as its new president—to help others build their lives on the Word of God and experience abundant life in Christ.

Fun Teaching for the Little Ones in Your Life

Listen up, parents and grandparents! Are you looking for ways to share God's love with your children and grandchildren? Insight for Living Ministries is bursting with excitement to bring the adventures of Wildwood to a whole new generation, and that includes YOUR family! Now, more than ever, our children and grandchildren need quality entertainment that is safe and Bible-based, but this kind of entertainment is scarce.

When you visit **PawsandTales.org**, you will find a brighter, easier, and "funner" webpage to explore. You will find Tools for Parents to help cultivate meaningful conversations with your children or grandchildren and even find new episodes, which are coming soon!

Join the club today on our website for up-to-date news and activities and listen on the following apps:



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Spotify Podcast



Amazon Music

Paws & Tales will help the little ones in your life "imagine God's love." See you in Wildwood!



Insight for Living Ministries Testimonials

I went to a women's Bible study as a young wife and mother in 1978 and heard this man speak. When I needed to know how to live and cultivate a good home and family life, I listened to this man's cassette tapes like my life and marriage depended on it. I wanted to succeed in my marriage after watching my parents' marriage fall apart. Now, after 50 years of marriage to the same man, I can honestly say God used Chuck Swindoll to teach me how to live an abundant life in Christ. I am so grateful for this sweet man. Your ministry is very much wanted and needed by a hurting world. My family and five children thank you for serving so humbly and teaching me so well.

Today is the third anniversary of my husband's passing. I read your devotional about the three-year drought and God promising rain and it just fit so perfectly with my situation. I had to let you know how much it spoke to me. Bonus, it's raining here in sunny Florida today. I've experienced a three-year drought, of sorts, but I believe God is with me and will send rain soon. Thank you for your messages!