

## Alpha Counseling Service

20730 Bond Rd/Suite S-180  
Poulsbo WA 98370/360.779.3624  
Website: [alphapoulsbo.org](http://alphapoulsbo.org)  
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Hello!

I was in a store with all their Halloween items on sale when I heard Christmas music being played. My first thought was "but what about Thanksgiving?" It seems to me that there is a bigger focus on Black Friday shopping, football and, Christmas shopping than on being thankful. I think it was Erma Bombeck who is quoted as saying "It takes 12 hours to prepare a Thanksgiving Day meal and only 12 minutes to consume it because halftime is only 15 minutes!"

The importance of being thankful cannot be ignored. Those who are thankful for what they do have, even if it isn't much, will be happier than those who have much but are not thankful for it. I Thessalonians 5:18 *in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* NASB. This does not say to be thankful **for** tragedy and heartache but **IN** even difficult times be thankful to God for Jesus and all He does for us in dark times. If we truly believe that God cares for us we will take courage even when life is not kind to us. One way to believe in a loving God is to choose to be thankful when complaining seems more natural. In I Corinthians 10 Paul gives a list of sinful behaviors that plagued the Israelites in the Wilderness and I am convicted to read verse 10 which says; *Nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer.* So just in case that doesn't seem to apply to us verse 11

says; *Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.* I think that means us!

So Thanksgiving Day is really a special day to think about and concentrate on all we have to be thankful for. However, I would hope we, as Christians, would develop an attitude of daily finding things to be thankful for. I have developed an age related eye problem that has been mostly corrected by a special vitamin I take daily and I am very thankful for that pill so this morning as I took it I gave thanks for the wisdom God gave man to heal my eyes.

***Our view of God always comes first, and this is the primary conflict between the secular scientific community and the Christian community. I am not anti-science; I love discovering the greatness of God by learning about the things He has made. And I thankfully give Him the credit for the beauty and design that surrounds me.*** Michael Garland, *The Lifted Veil: Viewing Your World in the Knowledge of Christ*

Debi and I are so very thankful for each of you who lifts us up in prayer. Thank You for your gifts  
In everything give thanks,

*Richard and Debi*