

May, 2021

Dear Friends,

Anniversaries come with different emphasis. Some are dark and sad like annually remembering 9/11/2001 and others are happy celebrations. Debi and I celebrated 53 years of marriage last month. It doesn't seem that long ago we were kids just trying to figure out what being married was all about and now we are experienced "pros" who give others advice. Another anniversary comes in May and that is when I started with Alpha 31 years ago. The time at Alpha has gone quickly.

When we start on a journey like marriage or a new job we really have no idea how it is all going to turn out. Recently, my devotional was all about "The graciousness of uncertainty"! We are inclined to be calculating in our plans and we look at uncertainty as a bad thing but, not in our spiritual walk.

Oswald Chambers says; "Certainty is a mark of the common-sense life. Gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways because we do not know what the day may bring forth. This is usually said with a sigh of sadness but it should rather be an expression of breathless expectation!"

Some time ago a Christian minister and I were sharing about our ministries and he mentioned that he had turned down several opportunities to preach because he felt that he didn't have of the Holy Spirit's power upon him. I may have offended him when I snorted that if I waited for a time I 'felt' inspired to counsel I would never get anything done.

We all have occasional days when we get up on the wrong side of the bed and, for me that might be a day full of people looking for counsel. Maybe the last thing I want to do is go to work and hear more stories of heart break and sadness. God does not require me to feel a certain way for Him to do His job in me and through me. If we calculate how much resources we have based on our feelings we remain in defeat. Waiting for something that God will not supply! Jesus said "except you be as a child you can not enter the kingdom". Matthew 18:3. Again I quote Chambers; "Spiritual life is the life of a child. We are not uncertain of God but, uncertain of what He is going to do next!"

I have met people who have never taken any risks in life being uncertain how things might turn out but, in using common sense they have missed out on so much in life. Jesus said; "Believe also in Me" and so our trust is to be in Him to make a way through uncertainty and not in my figuring out the way and then trust. I am reminded of the Children of Israel who stood at the edge of "The Promised Land", looked at themselves as grasshoppers and missed the important knowledge that their giant sized God had promised to go before them! Numbers 13:33. Don't miss the blessings of God by waiting for Him to send His power before you take a walk by faith in His name!

Thank you so much for taking a risk by supporting and praying for Alpha these many years. Because of you there are many folks who have learned to trust more completely in God as the One who knows the way to victory!

God Bless,

Richard and Debi

Alpha Counseling Services
20730 Bond Road NE 98370/ suite S-180
(360)7793624/Alphapoulsbo.org