



Alpha Counseling Service
20730 Bond Rd/Suite S-180
Poulsbo, WA 98370/360.779.3624
website:alphapoulsbo.org
January, 2022

Dear friends,

January's first devotion in *My Utmost for HIS Highest* started the year off perfectly for me. Quoting Philippians 1:20 Chambers in paraphrasing the verse says "*My determined purpose is to be my utmost for His highest.* In the past, I have loudly made New Year's resolutions and then quietly dropped the subject when I no longer kept them. This year I again want to stay faithful to Jesus and accomplish some new goals but where the spirit is willing the flesh (will power of self) is weak. What should I do? Should I not try because I can't seem to stick to it? No never! Better to try to be consistent in my walk with God and fail than to not try at all! Since COVID struck I have been consistent in my devotions- reading the Bible through every 250 days or so and also several devotionals. So my determined goal this year is to be consistent in my devotions and Christian walk and lose 5 pounds in 2022.

How is Alpha Counseling doing as we start a new year with COVID and politics the center of most people's attention? I could measure Alpha by the world's standards but that would not reflect what God is doing with us.. Our real purpose is to faithfully sit at this crossroad in Poulsbo and minister to hurting people forced by hard times and difficult circumstance to trust God to the utmost. Our counseling is down from before the plague hit but 2021 was somewhat better than 2020. Also, God has been very faithful and provided abundant financial blessings these last two years.

Chambers says "*But before we choose to follow God's will, a crisis must develop in our lives. This happens because we tend to be unresponsive to God's gentler nudges. He brings us to the place where He asks us to be our utmost for Him and we begin to debate. He then providentially produces a crisis where we have to decide—are we for or against God's work in our lives! That moment becomes a great crossroads for each of us!* And so Alpha's place is to sit at a crossroads and give directions to those willing to hear the message of Christ as life. How well is Alpha accomplishing that goal? I'm not sure we will ever know until we get to Heaven and see what God has to say. In our time left Debi and I hope to be found faithful in service to Him, to each other, and to others.

God Bless you with a healthy growing 2022!

Richard and Debi