

Alpha Counseling Services
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Dear Friends,

I have the privilege of working in Christian counseling since 1983. I have listened to a lot of conversations over that time and must say that the way people talk to each other has continually gotten worse.

Recently, I read a daily devotion in Henry and Richard Blackaby's- Experiencing God Day By Day and want to share part of it with you 😊

Matthew 12:36. **“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”** (or careless word-ESV)

Jesus spoke plainly about our idle words, yet His warning often goes unheeded. Jesus said that for every idle word there will be a time of accounting in the day of judgment. We would expect Jesus to condemn profane and vile uses of the tongue, but idle words? Idle words are things we say carelessly, without concern for their impact on others. We too quickly assume that the sins of our tongue are minor sins, sins that God will overlook. Yet Jesus was fully aware of the devastating nature of our words, for the idle words that come from our mouths give a lucid picture of the condition of our heart.

Matthew 15:18 **Do you not know ...what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.**

Think carefully about the words that come from your mouth. Christians should speak only words that uplift and bring grace to others.

Ephesians 4:29,31&32. **Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you evaluate whether your words build up others or whether they destroy and hurt others.

As summer gets going and kids are out of school and vacations get busy please remember to pray for Alpha, Debi, and me. Summer usually has a slower pace for Alpha but we are experiencing an increase in new people asking for help right now. Please continue to pray for Alpha's finances. Your prayers are working because we are paying all our bills so thank you for your prayers and gifts that help us help others 😊🙏

God bless you and keep you safe this summer !!

Richard