

ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

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July

2026

Hello!,

I'm really enjoying our weather. I tend to not complain about the weather, whatever it may be. While living in Florida, with 300 days of sunshine a year, I would hear complaining if the sun didn't shine three days in a row. Why are we almost always critical about things in our lives? As if we could change the weather!

In Oswald Chambers' My Utmost For HIS Highest for June 17th he says: *"The average Christian is the most piercingly critical individual known." "The Holy Spirit is the only one in proper position to criticize, and He is able to show what is wrong without hurting and wounding."*

Now this next statement is the finish of me on this subject. Are you ready?

"It is impossible to enter into fellowship with God when you are in a critical mood. Criticism serves to make you (and me) harsh, vindictive, and cruel; criticism leaves you (and me) with the soothing and flattering idea that you (and me) are somehow superior to others."

I am convicted that the very best and most obvious signal (that I personally am not abiding in Christ) is when I am being critical, either inwardly or verbally. I am really good at being critical of the driver in front of me, or the actions of people in politics, or something going on at home but, the

one thing I need to acknowledge is I have lost all fellowship and power with my Savior in that moment!!!

Chambers continues to meddle: *"If I see the speck in your eye, it means that I have a plank of timber in my own eye. Every wrong thing I find in you, God finds in me...I have never met a person I could despair of, or lose all hope for, after discerning what lies in ME apart from the grace of God"*

Now my disclaimer: I am not trying to criticize your critical behavior but my own. I have prayed for years to be able to discern when He is in control and when it's me running things and now I have an early warning sign to help me stop losing the war of flesh verses spirit found in Romans 7 and Galatians 5 Thank you Jesus!

And thank you for your prayers. This is our 37th summer at Alpha and it looks pretty much like the others. Counseling slows down when school is out We are doing well financially at Alpha, all bills get paid and then we take our pay, it encourages us to pray with enthusiasm.

Thanks for your enthusiasm for Alpha's ministry with your prayers and gifts.

God Bless your summer!

Richard