

# ALPHA COUNSELING SERVICES

20730 Bond Road NE Suite S-180  
Poulsbo Washington 98370  
(360) 779-3624  
Alphapoulsbo.org

August

2026

Hello Friends,

I hope your summer is full and entertaining!

As you may know, one of my favorite summertime activities has been hiking. Hiking is just walking with enthusiasm! I have met some great people on hikes. You really get to know someone pretty well when you hike for several days with a person. After a few hours of walking a person's real personality starts to appear. Even men tend to open up and talk about themselves on a walk.

As I was reading my devotions recently a thought struck. Walking is mentioned often and in several different ways in the Bible. Of course, there is the literal act of walking but even more is implied.

Genesis 3:8

*"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, .... I get the impression that God regularly sought out Adam, early in the morning, to fellowship with him.*

Genesis 5:22

Enoch walked with God three hundred sixty five years and in verse 24 it says that God took Enoch instead of him dying as everyone else had. The impression is that God and Enoch really got to know each other and their friendship was very close.

Genesis 17:1

God tells Abraham, *"I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless."* The term God Almighty is *El Shaddai*; it comes from the Hebrew word meaning mountain. God is the almighty one as overpowering as a mountain. Only after you have hiked up a few mountains can you really appreciate that word picture.

I John 1: 7 *If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.*

Isaiah 40:31

*Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength...they will walk and not become weary.*

II Corinthians 5:7

*"For we walk by faith, not by sight..."* Walking by faith is truly believing that physical death means to be in the presence of God. Here walking is a way of life. We are to live our life with the confidence that there is another life, a better life, after this one. I know some Christians who seem to tremble and shake when the subject of their mortality is discussed. They are afraid to die! My guess is they have, for whatever reason, not spent much time walking with God.

To walk with someone you need to get in step with each other. It is very hard to have a conversation talking over your shoulder

**To walk with God you must get in step with Him not the other way around.**

I hope this summer you will get out for some nice walks. Family and friends are good to walk with but there is an even greater plan. Learning to walk with God is life altering. Conversations with God are the most enduring moments you will ever have, and with them lasting results.

Thank you for your prayers for Alpha this summer. Usually, summer sees counseling slowing down but this year Alpha is quite busy. Please pray for wisdom and strength for me in a busy summer

God Bless, *Richard*