

How Do You Explain Your Blessings?

Traditions! You have got to love them, especially the eating and relaxing kind! It is that time of the year when eating good food and visiting with family and friends is the occasion you look forward to each year. Thanksgiving Day conjures up many thoughts of pilgrims, gathered corn stalks, pumpkins and of course the festive turkey. Did you know that for some time early in American history some wanted the turkey to become the national bird? What a shame that would have been, as one could not imagine eating the national bird! The Bald-Eagle was a better choice. It all turned out O.K., and now turkey is what we look to enjoy. My mouth waters!

We have much for which to be thankful. It is good to just stop and verbalize what good things we have in our lives that make us thankful. As the song encourages us we should, count our many blessing, naming them "one by one." Not only naming the blessing, but exploring the depth of its meaning and just how it blesses your life should be a part of the Thanksgiving holidays experience.

It is like a story I heard a few years ago about woman who had recently been baptized. She was with a co-worker one day when she was asked what it was like to be a Christian. She was caught off guard a little, and did not really know how to answer. How does one describe the greatest blessing of all? Well, as the woman was pondering how to answer she looked up and saw a jack-o'-lantern on her friend's desk. She then proceeded to say, "Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin." A look of surprise quickly came over the face of her friend who promptly requested further explanation. She continued by explaining, "Well, God picks you from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all those other pumpkins. Then He cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, selfishness, and the like. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all to see."

The Christian life can be described in many ways. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me," Galatians 2:20. The blessing of the Christian life causes us to be thankful, to rejoice, and to elevate its meaning in all areas of life.

Be sure to enumerate, express, evaluate, enunciate, and expound on the blessings that are meaningful to you this holiday season.

On behalf of the staff here at Buford, I express to you the best wishes for safety, relaxation and enjoyment this Thanksgiving Day!

—Scott