

THANKSGIVING

As the saying goes – you spend days cooking and an hour eating – and then there is football. In reality Thanksgiving is not just a day but a lifestyle. People who live with gratitude are full of Thanksgiving each day. Learning to look at what you have instead of what you want changes the activity and trajectory of each day. The biggest change is attitude. Yes, you may still want things, have goals for things but remembering how far you've come and not how far you have to go makes the day brighter.

Once upon a time you didn't have a car, then you got an old car, then you got a newer car, and then a nicer car, whatever the goal is for the next car (and it probably won't be the last one) shouldn't rob you of your simple happiness of not having to walk everywhere or hop a bus. (The same goes for houses and all the rest.)

It is a challenge to live in gratitude for what we have when we live in a society that makes you long for something "your whole life" that you just heard about yesterday. Our whole marketing world orientation is bent on creating

"dissatisfaction" with what we have so we will go after something new. There seems to be a real fear in our lives of missing out on something "better." (There is even an acronym for it, FOMO.)

We all basically know that the richness of our life is not in things, but in relationships and purpose. In Christ we get both, plus the relationships with all His other children. Christmas is coming and our attention to gift giving is raised. (Well, for children gift receiving. God started it all at Bethlehem with the gift of His Son. With thanksgiving at this season, we give our gifts of time and love to those around us following the model He set.

And with thanksgiving we receive your love, prayers, and friendship as the greatest gifts of the Season.

Have a blessed Merry Christmas.

Love.

Barbara and Edward