



Hank Van Joslin,

With Thanksgiving coming up, right around the corner, thankfulness should be in the forefront of everyone's mind. Decorative red, orange and yellow leaves adorn the entrances of homes; while pilgrims and turkeys have become symbols of being thankful as they rest in arrangements upon our dining room table. Once a year we are reminded to live with a deeper sense of gratitude. But what does Thanksgiving really mean? Thankfulness is an expression of gratitude. Gratitude is an appreciation for someone or something. Thankfulness is communicated through words and actions.

Why should we pause to be thankful? First of all, because being the

recipient of gratitude is one of the most wonderful feelings – be the one who gives this to those who desire it. Second; it has been said to be a scientific fact that thankfulness is good for our health. That it impacts every organ in our body in a positive way and that gratitude boosts our immunity and lowers our blood pressure.

Being thankful offers a new perspective. It can turn the mundane into marvelous and the routine into random acts of joy. Pausing to lift up our eyes and look around at the bigger picture can change our focus from inward to outward. It broadens our view so that we can take in all of the goodness that we sometimes miss seeing.

Lastly, thankfulness breeds compassion and understanding. There is nothing like griping and complaining to stir up contention and misunderstand-

ing. Thankfulness is the antidote to contempt and hatred.

Thankfulness brings a blanket of peace to all who will wear it.

Take time, not just during this holiday season, but every day of the year to give thanks. No matter how bad the situation may seem, there is always something to be thankful for. Give thanks for family and friends, for shelter and sustenance. Let gratitude be the first thing you feel no matter what the situation.

Remember – it could have been worse. Happy Thanksgiving, today and every day.