

<p><a title="Turkey Trot 2014, Austin, TX"

href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/abesselink/15891797742/" target="_blank">Thanksgiving is upon us once again. Thanksgiving always provides us with

a day to eat turkey, catch some lovely fall weather (fingers always crossed), and take in another University of Texas football game against some unspecified cross-state rival (Texas Fight Texas Fight Yeah Texas Fight).</p> <p>None of my family live in Texas. They are all still in Canada,

so they celebrated Thanksgiving Day in October, otherwise known as Columbus Day in the United States. I don't mind celebrating two Thanksgivings, especially if doing so provides the potential for more turkey.</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day is followed by Black Friday, a day of retail specials and sales. Ugh. The best part of Black Friday is that it reminds me of a great song by Steely Dan, but I digress.</p> <p>But with all kidding aside, Thanksgiving is a day to Give Thanks.</p> <p>This year, I find myself acutely aware of♦ the meaning behind the holiday.

It has, admittedly, been one of my most challenging years on the planet. In retrospect, I definitely see the importance of giving thanks for what we have in the here and now because, frankly, it might not be here tomorrow.</p> <p>The challenging days of our lives make us who we are. The man that sits here tapping away at another blog post is but a product of his life experiences. As challenging as they may have been, they make me the man that I am. Lincoln once said "there is no failure, only opportunity" and I couldn't agree with him more. I am thankful for the life experiences I have had, be they good or bad, because they have made life vivid, brilliant, and memorable. </p> <p>Family and friends are the glue that hold it all together. Sometimes I don't see them as often as I would like. I miss them when I don't see them, and I laugh with them when I do.</p> <p>If I didn't have laughter and the levity contained within, I would be lost. I am thankful for laughter in my world. Without it, I would be ... not laughing. Go ahead, laugh.</p> <p>In the quieter moments, I am thankful for the capacity to reflect on my world. It has lead me down the avenue of creativity and the boulevard of self expression. If I had never gone there, I wouldn't have ever written my first poem or played my first notes on the guitar.</p> <p>If you are fortunate, there will come a time when something you have written resonates with someone. With that said, I am thankful for the support and inspiration of each and every reader of this blog. It makes a difference in my world, and I am forever grateful and thankful for it.</p> <p>So I ask you to do this today, even if♦ this isn't Thanksgiving in your part of the world. Pause for a moment during your day and reflect. What are you thankful for today?</p> <p>When you establish this, take another moment and share it with those around you. Make it real. Smile. And truly enjoy Thanksgiving.</p> <p>Photo credits: abesselink</p> <h6>Related Articles By Allan Besselink</h6>

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