

Hello, everyone. This is Wayne Rivers at The Family Business Institute. As always, thank you for checking in on our blog. We'd love to have your comments below and if you have any ideas for future blogs, we'd love to have that information as well.

So, tomorrow is Thanksgiving and I want to talk a little bit about appreciating the blessings that we have, and I think in terms of FBI, and our clients, and the construction business as well as some of the other industries that we deal in, there are four primary areas where I think we need to stop and reflect and just consider our great blessings.

The first is your family, your family is the foundation. None of you originated in a business even though today that's your identity, business person. You originated in a family and with all respect to Thomas Wolfe, I think you can go home again. So, when you have need, pain, misery, frustration as well as joy and wonderful successes that, your family is where you go first to talk about those moments of despair as well as elation. So, family is the basis for all the good things that we have in life.

The second thing is, of course, our business. One of the things I've always believed about small business is that we go along and we build up businesses and we hire people instead, and we think about maybe one of our kids will come into the business one day, and I don't think that sentiment is ever really about making money or anything like that. I think people want their children to come into their family businesses because of values. There's nothing else outside of maybe religion that transmits values as well as a business. So you think about the opportunity, you get to live your personal values in your business.

Every single business day, you get to put your best self-forward every day and you think of all the people you touch, your employees, your customers, your vendors, your suppliers, your subcontractors. You think of all the people you get to touch in an average business day and then over an average business lifetime, and it's really amazing. So, you get to live your values in your business and maybe even if you're lucky you get to pass those values down to your kids and grandkids and then they can transmit those terrific family values throughout the community.

The third thing we have to be appreciative for is peers. So many of you are in trade associations, many of you are in local associations of business leaders, you've got vendors, suppliers, subcontractors that you deal with all the time, you've got friendly competitors that you talk to. And to have a network of peers that you can go to with business challenges or problems, and even personal challenges and problems is a wonderful blessing. That's kind of unique here in America, I think, because even if it's your competitors, most of the time we have a pretty reasonable number of friendly competitors that we talk to about business. We don't have holds of everything but with your friendly competitors you can talk shop where there's personal or business and share some of the things that challenges on a day to day basis.

And, the fourth thing that I really think we have to be thankful for is America. We've just been through a contentious election and there's all kinds of high anxiety on both sides of the aisle, but really America is the

country that has allowed more dreams to come true for more people than any other culture in the history of mankind. So, we really should thank our lucky stars that we were born or live in America, and we have so many opportunities as a result of this wonderful system that allows people who are ambitious and hungry to lift themselves up by their bootstraps and have a better life as time goes by.

So, four things to be happy about, four blessings that we should share on Thanksgiving and I'd love to hear comments. This is Wayne Rivers at The Family Business Institute.