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Those Physical Symptoms Could Be Depression

19 million Americans are depressed ~ are you?

More women are diagnosed, but men have it too. Family history, trauma, poverty, illness & aging can trigger depression.

Here's a Checklist to Discuss with a Doctor or Therapist

Do you have any of these physical and mental problems?

- □ Easily overwhelmed, cry for no reason?
- □ Unable to sit still, feel agitated, restless?
- □ Nothing is fun or pleasurable?
- □ Don't want sex, or affection?
- □ Low energy, tire easily?
- □ Everything feels like too much effort?
- □ Eat too much or can't eat at all?
- □ Sleep too much or too little?

- □ Have unexplained aches & pains?
- □ Feel guilty, hopeless, unworthy?
- □ Get frequent headaches?
- □ Slow in thinking, speaking, or moving?
- □ Indecisive or can't concentrate?
- $\hfill\square$ Distracted and can't remember details?
- □ Feel miserable, unhappy, sad all the time?
- \Box Feel like your mind is blank or numb?

Are you doing or using any of these to feel better, or not feel at all?

- □ Drinking more than usual or using drugs?
- $\hfill\square$ Craving sweets and other carbs?
- □ Exercising until you collapse?
- □ Withdrawing from friends & family?
- □ Injuring yourself to let the pain out?
- $\hfill\square$ Picking fights with family and friends?
- □ Spending more than you can really afford?
- □ Avoiding, escaping into TV, fantasies?

Healthy ways to deal with depression:

- Keep a routine, stay in touch with friends
- Get good nutrition, avoid alcohol
- Join a support group, read self-help books
- Go for a daily walk, notice the flowers
- Start a Gratitude Journal
- Talk with a professional, consider meds

Want to know more about how you can overcome depression? Talk with a licensed counselor today. **210-452-6416**

Mary Walseth, MA, LPC specializes in helping others overcome depression and grief, and regain pleasure in life from the inside out. Her office is located in Live Oak, TX. Ms. Walseth is most easily reached by phone at 210-452-6416 or by e-mail at mwalseth@satx.rr.com.

