

Theme for 2019

‘The God of Another Year, is a God of Wonderful and Amazing Grace. He is the God of Forgiveness and He is the God of Beginning Again.’

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES!

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.”

Psalm 51:15 (ESV); Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV); Psalm 9:1-2 (NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – January 13, 2019

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” Luke 1:34-37 (NIV)

As I think about our theme for this year –***365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES***– and reflect upon the news shared with Mary by the angel in this passage, I am mindful of the fact that Mary and Elizabeth are at the opposite ends of the journey of life. Mary, a young virgin as young as 12 or 13, and Elizabeth, a barren woman who traditionally is believed to have been as old as 88! As symbolic bookends to life’s journey, these two women in a profound way show us that God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, brings new life to every corner of creation, even in the most unlikely and unexpected of places.

On one level, there is an immediate historic reality to these stories that should never be dismissed or discounted, nor should we shy away from their miraculous nature. Mary was truly a virgin who bore the Lord Jesus into the world, and Elizabeth was truly well beyond the age for child bearing; yet found herself six months pregnant. However, as we read these stories two thousand

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years later, their combined witness reminds us of the truth that God speaks life into the most impossible of places, relationships, and situations.

Every one of us carries in our soul the wounds of brokenness, whether from broken relationships, broken promises, the pain of unmet expectations, lost dreams or something else in between. As Christians we learn to live in places of tension, acknowledging the brokenness of our world and lives, and yet holding fast to the hope that God speaks life where there is death, peace where there is chaos, and joy where there is despair.

I wonder, can you find your own place within the family story of God’s people told in Luke 1? With Mary on one side and Elizabeth on the other, can you look back to the long line of people who have born witness to their hope in God in their own day, trusting that God will, by the empowering presence of His Spirit, give you the strength and courage to do the same in your own life?

As you look back and reflect on your past year(s) and look ahead to the days, weeks and months of this year, may the blessing of peace rest upon you... the blessing of joy abide within you... the blessing of success and favor surround you... the blessing of love flow out through you. May all the Blessings of the Lord be yours in abundance as you ‘Encounter the Possibilities’ of this year each day!!

Application: Be reminded this week through the witness of Mary and Elizabeth, that God brings life to every part of His creation, even your own situations, no matter how impossible and hopeless they may seem. Be reminded that God keeps His promises and He will never leave or forsake you! So, cling to the hope and the promises of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Come to Me with all your weaknesses: physical, emotional, psychological, relational, financial and spiritual. Rest in the comfort of My Presence, remembering that nothing is impossible for Me. Pry your mind away from your problems and circumstances, so you can focus your attention on Me. Remember that I am able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine. The bottom line is you don’t be afraid of anything; so, rather than trying to maintain control over your life, abandon yourself to My will.” (Luke 1:37; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 23:1-4)

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King