First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 February 10, 2019

## 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 - February 10, 2019

"Love...it is not easily angered." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—Love is slow to anger, and it is not easily angered. It is not in a hurry to get angry because it knows God is at work. Love knows God can handle the irregular person and the stressful situation. Most of the time, the best thing love can do is refrain from anger. A calm response diffuses an angry outburst (Proverbs 15:1). Poverty, injustice, racism, discrimination, etc., should work us up much more than traffic, forgetful waiters, and not getting our way.

Love is able to keep the big picture in mind. It overlooks the silly things that really don't matter that much in the big scheme of things. Love adjusts rather than stews in anger; it calms the nerves, while anger wreaks havoc with your blood pressure. Love-filled living is by far a healthier way to live physically and emotionally. It understands that tomorrow is another day and there is no need to stress over this temporary setback.

"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs." (Proverbs 10:12)

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Love knows how to trust God. Pray to God before you get angry. Ask the Lord to increase your love quotient before you lash out in anger. Love understands there are better ways and a better day ahead.

However, there are times love sees the need for anger. Your love needs to rise up in anger over the abuse of drugs and alcohol. These are enemies of the state and deceivers of unsuspecting souls that wreck relationships and take lives. Your love can confidently invite anger to rise up and rebuke these artificial enhancers of hope that can possibly lead to death. Love doesn't stick its head in the sand of isolation and detachment but engages by offering wise choices and compassionate counseling.

Love gets angry at times, but it is anger that is reserved for the right occasions. Even Jesus administered anger at the appropriate time. (Mark 3:5, John 2:15) Love understands that anger—used selectively and prayerfully—has its place. The passion around love means you are concerned and invested. So aggressively love without flying off the handle just to make a statement. Love unconditionally instead of trying to intimidate through anger. Love for the long haul gets healthy and happy results.

On today, 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' this day will bring!!

**Application:** Love will anger at times, but only after much prayer and patience. Find ways today to love more and be angry less. Above all else, be rich in love and slow to anger (Psalm 145:8). This high road to heaven illustrates the long-suffering love of the Lord.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Dear God, I come to You in my hour of need. I ask You to touch my mind and uplift my thoughts, change my seeming realities that I am thinking and feeling about my life, change my opinion of what is and what can be. Lord God, I ask that You give me a sense of well-being again. I pray that You help me find my smile, both on my face and in my soul. Help me to find ways to love more and be angry less. God I cannot do this by myself, so I turn to You, and I surrender my all to You. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"

"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