First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 February 24, 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): I amontations 3:22 23 (NK IV): Psalm 9:1 2 (NK IV)

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



This Week's Thought – February 24, 2019

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." Psalm 37:5 (ESV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>-So often it seems there are long pockets or periods of our lifespan, when we walk through life without clarity on where we are headed. The thing is, when we set out without a clear course or path, we rarely if ever find ourselves in the places we want to be! This applies to our Christian life as well; for a life of discipleship requires true intentionality and clarity of vision. You and I will not stumble our way towards holiness or fall into a life of mature discipleship. While we are always led and empowered by the grace of God, we must still pursue Him in intentional and deliberate ways.

Do you have a plan for spiritual growth? As you look at your life in your current season, do you have a vision of where you'd like to be in a year's time? As it says in Proverbs, "Where there is no vision [no revelation of God and His word], the people are unrestrained; But happy and blessed is he who keeps the law [of God]." (Proverbs 29:18 Amplified) An essential part of a robust and vibrant spiritual life is a clear plan for growth.

Your life may be filled to the brim with a steady flow of commitments and distractions, clouding your discernment and cluttering your vision, making it harder and harder to see a faithful way forward. Resist the urge to rush ahead and add something to an already overcommitted life, even a good and Godly thing! Instead, push the pause button and reassess your priorities and how you use your time.

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Our use of time is a remarkable indicator of what we love and where we are headed. We as humans have an incredible capacity to say one thing and do another! For example, I could say, "*I love reading books in the evening*." However, if I look at my actual week and 5 out of 7 evenings are spent watching television, a truer statement is "*I love watching Cable/Netflix/Hulu/Etc.*!" Before putting too much trust in where you say you are going, reflect upon how you spend your days and see where you are actually headed in life.

To commit your way to the Lord is to build your life upon the values of His Kingdom. It is to bring your time, talents, and treasures into full alignment with His will and purpose. As the Psalmist reminds us, committing our way to the Lord is an act of trust. We believe that He will meet us and guide us into a full and flourishing life lived with Him. Trust today that life with God is the greatest thing you could ever give yourself to, and therefore run after Him with all your heart, mind, and strength!

"May you, his people, always be faithful to the LORD our God, obeying all his laws and commands as you do today." (1 Kings 8:61 Good News Translation)

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 '<u>Encounter the</u> <u>Possibilities</u>' this day will bring!!

Application: Take an audit of your time and your finances, looking for ways that you are overextended and overcommitted in one or two areas. Then ask God to give you the courage to trust Him with your present and your future, believing that His ways are good, right, and true.

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week</u>: "Dear God, I open my mind and heart to You and ask You to show me the way. I pray that You will give me Divine ideas and set me straight upon my path. I ask You to help me remove all worry from my human mind and replace it with hope. I pray that You will reveal everything I need to know in advance of the need. I am willing to accept all that You share and show me; and I am ready to move in the direction You indicate. I give thanks to You for Divine guidance. 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