

## ***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 – March 17, 2019***

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*“My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NRSV)*

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**365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES**—*“If God were to get up and walk out of the building, would any of us notice?”* This was a question posed by a pastor in a sermon that I heard years ago, and it is something that has stuck in mind and I think about constantly ever since. While there is much to be said about organizational efficiency and productivity, as our church continues to press on in ministry and mission for Christ, it is going to require an ever-increasing degree of care-taking and creativity. What is critically important for me and all of us to remember however, is that we don’t want to try and become so compelling and winsome in our presentation, that we miss the power of God in the process.

St. Paul was writing to a church in Corinth that was accustomed to well-rehearsed, perfectly executed presentations. They had no time for mistakes, learning and growing, no patience for anything less than perfection. Yet Paul refused to play into this expectation or try to win them over with anything less than the power of God at work through the life-giving Spirit. In fact, the more he embraced his weaknesses and limitations, the more the power of God was able to shine forth in clear and compelling ways. Are you and I able to do the same?

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As the rest of his letter makes clear, St. Paul not only knew about the power of the living God, but that power had transformed him in the core of his being. When God infuses His life into yours, you become a living, embodied “*demonstration of the Spirit and of power*” (1 Corinthians 2:4). Do you believe that your life could be so transformed by the love of God that someone could come to encounter the living God simply by being in your presence?

More than your ability to think or speak clearly about the Bible or theology; more than your gifts and skills in speaking how faithful you are to God and ministry; people are first and foremost drawn to the lived experience of the Holy Spirit that they encounter in you. There is certainly a place for thinking clearly and speaking faithfully, but if this is separated from a life aflame with the Fire of God, it will leave you empty and hollow.

Whatever else may be true of our church and ministries, may it always first and foremost be known as a place where the power of God can be encountered in the life and witness of all those connected and active in its ministry and mission. **The world is desperate to know the transforming power of God – let us never settle for anything less!**

**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:** Where have you relied on your skills, gifts, and strategy instead of upon the power of God? Ask God to so infuse and transform our lives that we share in His life and Spirit and share that life with the world around us.

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:** “Dear God, I pray today, that I am a living manifestation of Your love, joy and peace. I pray that I feel Your presence and influence in every thought that I think and in every emotion that I feel. I pray that Your Power and Strength comes through me and overflows from within me onto others, and in all that I do. I pray that I live the power of Your Holy Spirit every second of everyday day and night, and in so doing, I experience what true joy and happiness really is. I pray that I make joy and peace a habit that I automatically live on a daily basis. 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