First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 March 3, 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 – March 3, 2019

"And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season; Its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity]." Psalm 1:3 Amplified (AMP)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>–We are blessed when the roots of our faith draw from the waters of God's Word. When we take the time to plant our faith by the banks of God's living water, we come alive. This is where the fruits of humility, honesty, and humor grow. The water of God nurtures us like liquid vitamins.

It's the water of God that hydrates our souls, not the world's generic substitutes. We may attempt to plant our lives next to a stream of self-sufficiency, only to find ourselves thirsting. It is the water of God's Word that we are to drink day and night because it creates abundant life. The effects of God's Word are not always immediately evident, sometimes it takes time for it to make its way into the root system of our beliefs; but eventually, an eternal perspective begins to take shape as we become saturated in the Word of God.

The fruit of a faithful life flourishes over time. Your influence compounds as you follow Christ. It may seem like you are in an insignificant season. This is not true. All seasons with your Savior are significant. You may be living in a confusing season, but your confusion is Christ's opportunity to bring clarity. This is a significant time for your faith to bear fruit. Faithfulness brings clarity during uncertain times.

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Do not wish away this season; it is a time for you to go deep with Him. It is on the anvil of adversity that appreciation and gratitude are forged. You may be thriving in a season of prosperity, and it's tempting to walk away from God and continue on your own; but in doing so, you leave the spirit of humility and dependency on God. He brought you this far, so stay faithful as your finances flourish, and be more aggressive in your generous giving. Live for the Lord, not for yourself.

The blessing of God's fruit comes when you avoid the advice of the wicked and cling to the counsel of Christ and His followers. The wicked try to define a better way. They want to lead you astray, but Jesus is the way! <u>You cannot improve on Christ; therefore by faith, stay in a position to be blessed.</u> Wise positioning invites God's blessing. Prosperity is looking for those who depend on the Lord.

"Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not regard the proud nor those who lapse into lies." (Psalm 40:4 Amplified)

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: Plant your life close to an understanding and an application of Scripture. The Bible is your baseline for belief and behavior. When God sees someone who is immersed in the principles of His Word, He has found someone He can trust with His blessings. He extends His best to those who are planted next to the truth of His Word. He trusts those who trust Him. He bears fruit through those who depend on Him.

<u>Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week</u>: "Keep your eyes on Me, not only for direction, but also for empowerment. I never lead you to do something without equipping you for the task. That is why it is so important to seek My will in everything you do. There are many burned-out Christians who think more is always better, who deem it unspiritual to say, 'no'. In order to know My will, you must spend time with Me—enjoying My Presence. This is not an arduous task, but a delightful privilege. I will show you the path of Life; in My Presence is the fullness of Joy; at My right hand there are delights and pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 141:8; Isaiah 48:17; Psalm 16:11)

"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