

## ***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 – May 19, 2019***

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*“Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.”* Isaiah 40:1 (NRSV)

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**365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES**– Comfort is something God’s people long for throughout the entire Bible. From a people in slavery, to wandering in the wilderness, to exile in Babylon. For their entire history they knew the world was not how it was meant to be and longed for it to be made whole, to enter into the rest and peace of God. Yet time and time again, they thought they would find comfort, only to be afflicted yet again.

Perhaps you find yourself in a similar season of life? You feel like more often than not, you take one step forward, two steps back, and as a result you are left feeling beaten down, weary, and confused. As such, you spend your time looking for comfort and consolation anywhere you can find it. If this resonates with you today, be aware of the great risk that comes with this desperate search for comfort. When people are in places of exhaustion, depression, or confusion, they are greatly tempted to pursue things that are not God’s best for us.

The more desperate we feel, the more desperately we grasp for something to make us feel good! For example, psychologists often use the acronym **HALT** (**H**ungry, **A**ngry, **L**onely, and **T**ired). If you find yourself in one or a combination of these places, you are far more likely to aggressively seek out a source of comfort, even if that comfort is fleeting and empty.

Any comfort other than the comfort of Christ will leave us hollow and confused; and eventually, God in His kindness allows us to see these false comforts for what they truly are: **substitutes**. You may land the promotion at work, lose the weight, date the perfect person, and get your child into the best school in town, yet you still find yourself afflicted and sorrowful. Why? Because each of these and countless more over promise and under deliver on their claims to comfort.

*“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31)

The call on our lives is to learn to patiently wait and trust in the comfort that only the Lord can bring. We must wait on God to act, believing that He is bigger than our circumstances and even able to act outside of our expectations and categories! Case in point: no one saw Jesus coming! Never would someone have been able to guess that this was the path of comfort God’s people so desperately longed for and needed. Yet, what we celebrate with each brand new day, is that in Jesus, God did something so unprecedented and cosmic that the world has never recovered from it! The resurrection of Jesus recalibrates our definition of “**possibility**” and “**comfort**”, freeing us to hope again and believe again in seemingly impossible dreams!

**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:** What false comforts do you consistently turn to in times of need? Learn to “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths.*” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week:** “I am taking care of you. Trust Me at all times. Trust Me in all circumstances. Trust Me with all your heart. When you are weary and everything seems to be going wrong, you can still utter these four words: ‘I trust You, Lord!’ By doing so, you release matters into My control, and you fall back into security of My everlasting arms. Every day provides many opportunities for you to learn My ways and grow closer to Me. Search for Me as for hidden treasure. I will be found by you.” (Proverbs 3:5; Deuteronomy 33:37; Jeremiah 29:13-14)

*“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