First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 May 26, 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 - May 26, 2019

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord." Isaiah 11:1-3a. (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—God provides spiritual resources for His children—all we need is in Christ. The same Spirit of the Lord that indwelled and empowered Jesus is the One who does the same for His followers. The Holy Spirit provides all the spiritual resources needed to carry out His will.

You need wisdom; He provides good judgment. You need understanding; He provides discernment. You need counsel; He provides advice. You need power; He provides strength. You need knowledge; He provides information. You need the fear of God; He provides holy awe. However, resources without reception are without results. Don't be so wrapped up in your plan that you miss His provision. Every day all the resources you need are a prayer away.

Wisdom, understanding and His godly counsel are all there for the asking. The Holy Spirit is at your side to convict, comfort and guide, so solicit the Spirit to lead you. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

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Jesus is our friend and Savior. God is our father and Lord. The Spirit is our guide and Counselor. The Holy Spirit will guide you in truth and righteousness. The Spirit is who puts a check in your spirit to protect you from an unwise choice. The Spirit is who empowers your spirit to faith and courage. Beware of trying to relegate Him to some obscure corner of your life, just because you do not totally understand Him.

The fruit of the Spirit will flow from your life as He is unleashed by faith. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are the fruit bearing consequences of the Holy Spirit's control. Your relationship with the Heavenly Father is not complete without your empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

This is where unremarkable religion can become a rejuvenated relationship. If your relationship with God is in a rut, then let the Holy Spirit fall fresh on your life. Start by allowing the fruit of the Spirit to mold your character and help you purge fruitless attitudes and actions. Prune the bad to make room for the good. Unpack and use the Spirit's gifts. Then, by faith, allow the Spirit to develop your character and competence into bushels of fruit.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other." (John 15:16-17)

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: Do you daily invite the fullness of the Spirit to fill you with faith, hope and love? Don't stop leaning on and leaning into God for wisdom and grace to live life to the fullest, in Jesus name.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: "Stay conscious of Me as you go through the day, remembering that I never leave your side. Let the Holy Spirit guide you step by step, protecting you from unnecessary trials and equipping you to get through whatever must be endured. As you go about your day, keep your mind in heavenly places with Me. Thus, the Light of My Presence shines on you, giving you Peace and Joy that circumstances cannot touch." (Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 41:13; Psalm 36:9)

"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