

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 – June 9, 2019

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NRSV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—Though we are hesitant to admit it, one of the driving questions behind many of our decisions in life is “*What’s in it for me?*” Even when doing a good deed and serving a greater cause, the human tendency is to want to at least be acknowledged or maybe even mentioned for our efforts.

This inclination towards self isn’t a modern phenomenon but is at the core of what it means to be a human being in a broken world. We are, by default, tuned into ourselves, and this temptation was escalating in the early church. Having recently been taught about the Holy Spirit as a giver of good gifts, the early Christians were eager to receive them. Why? Because we like to receive gifts! They hoped these gifts would make them spiritually enlightened and fulfilled. In fact, an argument was emerging as to who in their community was, in fact, the most “*spiritual*” of them all. In the face of this escalating debate, Paul steps in to remind them of a foundational truth:

God gives you gifts so you can give them away or use them for the good of others!

Rather than getting caught up in comparing gifts or envying others for what they have, Paul reminds us that the Lord is the One who gives gifts, and it is our job to receive them with humility and joy. Do you believe God knows you even better than you know yourself? Do you trust that He desires your good and will empower you to live a flourishing life in His Kingdom?

If so, rather than focusing on what you lack, cultivate a heart of gratitude and joy for what you have been given! Take time to discern the unique gifts you have been given, and honor that gift by nurturing and cultivating it.

One of the greatest ways to tend to the work and gifts of the Spirit in your life, is to **continually look for ways to give your life away without any strings attached!** Remember that God’s plan isn’t just your private joy and salvation but that He gives Himself away for the life of the world. (John 6:51) How can you take your part in the grand story of redemption God is telling over creation? In your willingness to give without expecting anything in return, you model and embody a life lived for the sake of others and to the glory of God!

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” (Galatians 5:13)

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: Who can you serve today without expecting anything in return? Ask God to help you to see the gifts He has given you as the strength and power you need to serve others in His Name. Amen.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, I recognize that You are moving through me to accomplish good, and for that I am grateful. I acknowledge my oneness with You, and that You have a plan of good for me. In gratitude and humble submission, I let Your love direct my actions towards friends, family and even strangers. Help me to see all the miraculous events happening in my life and all around me, and I pray that I get to the point that Jesus got to of giving thanks in advance knowing that Your Divine order will prevail. 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