

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 30, 2019

“So with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church.” I Corinthians 14:12 (NIV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—For far too many Christians, maybe because of misinterpretation or misunderstanding, their ‘striving’ works against grace and they try and gain God’s favor in their own strength and efforts. As J.I. Packer once said in his book **Keep in Step with the Spirit**, we think the Holy Spirit comes on us like a mood, something that “overtakes us,” like feelings of anger, gloom, euphoria or joy. As such, we spend our lives waiting around for the Spirit to overtake us thinking nothing is required or asked of us as a result. However, Packer reminds us the ordinary, normative way in which the Spirit works is to “**prompt us to activity.**”

You and I cannot make the grass grow. Yet if your lawn has any hope of surviving the summer, you are wise to water it and create an environment that encourages growth! Similarly, you and I do not tell God what to do or force His hand, yet wisdom invites us to cultivate daily habits and practices that open us up to His presence.

Herein lies the great mystery of the work of the Spirit. The Spirit’s work in our lives is called a gift. Gifts given are to be received with a posture of receptivity and humble gratitude. Yet in the same breath, Paul exhorts the church to “*strive to excel*” in the gifts you have been given.

Presumably, this means it is a gift that is meant to awaken something in us, to move us to action and a faithful response.

Have you tended faithfully to the gifts God has given to you? According to Paul, one sign of faithful stewardship is the ability to use your gifts for the encouragement of others and the work of the church. The activity that the Spirit empowers in you isn’t simply greater introspection or personal, private fulfillment. You excel in your faith when your personal encounter of God transforms your relationship with your family, friends, and community.

Though God calls us to different roles of service within the life of the body, to be a follower of Jesus is to be called into mission. The gift of the Spirit is God’s power to equip every saint for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). You have a unique, God given contribution to make. With great joy and anticipation, believe today that the Lord has given you gifts that you can excel in and will lead to your flourishing and the upbuilding of the church.

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:3-4). The grandeur of God’s glory comes down to care for you.

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 gift have you been given that you have neglected to cultivate? Thank God for the gifts of His Spirit that fill us with His love and equips us to serve boldly in His name.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, I come here today with something in my heart (a decision to make, a seeking of guidance, a searching for the path). I know that Your higher wisdom can be trusted to bring me safely to the right path. I do not have to know how the work will be done, but I follow a Divinely-directed path. Your love, moving on me and through me, leads me on a Divinely-directed path. Answers come, words are given, the way is shown. You are the wisdom, the guidance, and the illumination in my heart, as I ‘Seek to Keep in Step with Your Spirit.’ 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