

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 – July 14, 2019

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—If there is one thing most if not all of you know or have come to know about me by now, it is that I love Bible ‘nuggets.’ Those little ‘bits of gold’ that jump off the page and speak to the heart. I recently found one in Philippians 4:4-7. Right in the middle of this passage, there is a sentence I have read and heard many times before, but I never really paid too close attention to it until now.

In this passage, Paul is telling the Philippians to rejoice, not to be anxious, to pray, and to present their requests to God so they can experience His peace. These exhortations from Paul fit well together. But there is one sentence in this passage that doesn’t seem to fit. Just after Paul’s emphatic command to *“Rejoice!”* and before his words saying not to be anxious, he says, *“Let your gentleness be evident to all.”*

So, what do rejoicing during trouble and not being anxious have to do with letting your gentleness become evident to those around you? Hmmm...well here’s what the Spirit revealed to me:

Our anxious thoughts affect everyone around us. If we allow anxiousness to dominate us, gentleness is generally not what others experience. Instead, they see our irritability and anxious faces. They hear our frustration, anger, and perhaps our lack of hope. What we do with our anxiousness isn’t just about us; it’s also about everyone around us because it affects everyone around us.

In fact, anxiousness—just like frustration, anger, and fear—can be contagious. Others can “catch” our bad moods. But when we take care of our own hearts, we love others well. So, how can you let your “gentleness be evident to all” when you don’t feel gentle?

Well, you might have to actually do the second part of Philippians 4:6, **FIRST**. Pray and give your requests to God, then, give Him thanks and release your burdens to Him. When you release your cares to Christ, joy and peace will become your companions. As a result, others will see your peace and joy—and they will experience the **gentleness** that comes to all of us when we rest in the truth that we are loved.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)

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: Practice this week’s devotion the next time you feel anxious and make note of how it affects your closest relationships. In addition, pray and thank God that He gives you the ability to love others well. Thank Him that you can go to Him to calm your emotions and lift your spirit so that others around you can see His gentleness in you.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father. You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. But remember the root command: Love one another.” John 15:12-17 (MSG)

“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