First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 July 21, 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 - July 21, 2019

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people." Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—The fervency of our prayers for others is an indicator of our heart's condition. If you are nonchalant and unengaged in your petitions for people, your spirit is probably distant from the Holy Spirit. So, we have to be intentional to slow down and seek the face of God on behalf of our family, friends and even our enemies. We pray their hearts will receive clarity from Christ about His calling on their lives. The Lord's will is bountiful riches waiting to be experienced by God's people. Prayers for others bring clarity to our own heart.

So why does Paul pray for the Ephesian Christians to know the hope of their calling? Because hope facilitates faith. It produces love. It takes the allure out of temptation. It comforts sorrow and anticipates answered prayer. Hope is heaven's reminder to remain faithful, for there is much more beyond this life. Hope lives obedient in the present and trusts God with the future. Paul knew if they cherished hope their praise and worship of the Lord would be uninhibited and full of glory. Like a microscope, hope sees the Spirit at work in minute ways and like a telescope, hope is able to focus on the vastness of God's handiwork. Prayerful clarity comes from trust in Jesus.

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"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Perhaps your prayers of clarity for your child include their college, career and calling. Help them to seek understanding about their giftedness and passion. God's vocational will, normally aligns around an individual's interests, energy and what they do well. Pray for the Lord to send mentors into your child's life who are good examples of life's various roles and responsibilities... especially those who Christ followers. Prayer brings clarity.

Most of all, pray for others to seek clarity from the Heavenly Father in their own prayer life. Our faith walk with Jesus facilitates sensitivity to the Spirit's leading. When we are still, we are able to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. When our heart is dialed in to God, we know what to do next. We trust Him with the next right thing, and we wait patiently on future decisions. Clarity comes to Christians who wait on Christ. Eyes of the heart are able to see the Lord's heart.

"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5)

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 area of your life needs the most clarity and requires your patient prayers? Pray to the Lord that the eyes of your heart and others will be enlightened by Him through His Holy Spirit.

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: "Seek My Face, and you will find fulfillment of your deepest longings. My world is filled with beautiful things; they are meant to be pointers to Me, reminders of My abiding Presence. The earth still declares My Glory to those who have eyes that see and ears that hear. I chose to pour My Light into you so that you can be a beacon of light to others. There is no room for pride in this position. Your part is to reflect My Glory. I Am the Lord!" (Psalm 105:4; Psalm 19:1-2; Isaiah 60:2)

"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