First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 August 4, 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 – August 4, 2019

"It takes a grinding wheel to sharpen a blade, and so one person sharpens the character of another." Proverbs 27:17 The Passion Translation (TPT)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—I don't how you think or feel about Sunday morning worship services, but for me, each time I attend...no matter or when...I am freshly reminded of the necessity for community. Tears and truth mingled together to transform all of us. Sharpened by one another in the Spirit, each person (man, woman, boy or girl), grows into a better version of themselves.

Without relational engagement with others we are only a shell of ourselves. The 'blade of our life' becomes dull while cutting through the clutter and chaos of everyday life. Only by the whetstone of another righteous life are we able to learn from and feel the sparks from their story, and grind away the impediments to our relational intimacy with God and others.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Hebrews 10:24, KJV)

Pride smothers in community for lack of air to the ego. Do you have a group of brothers or a group of sisters who love you for you? Brothers, Sisters, Friends who don't require anything to earn their love and there is nothing you can do to lose their love? You can be yourself, and in the process better understand yourself. Love thrives where it feels listened to and understood. Peace blankets a heart that is freely comforted and cared for by an empathetic group of friends.

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Sparks of truth will rub pride the wrong way from time to time, only to soften the ego and humble the heart. Most importantly is your community of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Linger long in the presence of the Trinity and your trust and love will grow without end.

Ask God our Father, for His wisdom and He will open your mind to thoughts only seen by eyes of faith. Seek the Savior's forgiveness and He will wash away your guilt and shame with His purifying grace and love. Rest in the Comforter's care and the Holy Spirit will give you rest and rejuvenation to your soul. Divine community draws your heart into ongoing communion. The cords of faith, hope and love cannot be broken, when you come broken before the community of the Divine.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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: This week, think about how you can develop a humble and vulnerable heart with a current group of friends or maybe even a new group of friends who loves you. As God to keep you in Divine community and ongoing communion with Him.

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week</u>: "Dear God, I am ready to live more. I am ready to live higher. Help me to rediscover who I really am. Help me to rediscover who I can really be. I consent to becoming more and doing more, by confessing and repenting of those things/idols that might be standing between me and You. Give me the courage to climb over the self-imposed blocks and free myself. Help me to come out of my shell...I am ready and willing to grow, unfold, advance, and progress. In You I am free to live and to love in faith. 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