First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 August 25, 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 25, 2019

"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:37 (KJV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—Followers of Jesus are not victims, they are victorious and more than conquerors. The Living Bible translates Romans 8:37 this way, "But despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us." In other words, you have overcome because Christ has overcome.

There is no need to give in to the temptation of victimized thinking. A "woe is me" attitude places the focus on you instead of your Savior. Victims seek out sympathy from just about anybody they get it from. Their desired outcome is someone feeling sorry for them. Ultimately, they want someone else to fix their circumstances.

Victims refuse to take responsibility, but when a person takes responsibility for their choices and their circumstances, they you cease to be a victim. Christ frees you from the vicious cycle of victimized living. Christ is your confidence and the object of your faith. He gives you the security and strength to carry on even when you feel misunderstood, marginalized, or rejected.

People who embrace victimless living get on with life. They shed feeling sorry for themselves and begin to serve others. They lift their discussions from the depths of despair to the heights of hope.

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Therefore, do not allow your circumstances to define you. Christ has already defined you as more than a conqueror through Him. You are victorious in Him.

Help those seduced by and stuck in a victim mindset. Be patient while they process what possesses their thinking. Through Christ, lead them to break the chain of this corrosive thinking. Help them discover that they need people to pray for them, not to feel sorry for them. They need the power of God to prevail in their lives; they don't need the manipulation from those who might take advantage.

Jesus has overcome pain, suffering, and death. He transforms His children from victims to victorious followers. Be authentic in your adversity and honest about your fears and frustrations; but offer solutions not complaints. Pray for the power of God to fall fresh on you, for by faith, you can go from victim to victor. Because Jesus has overcome, you have overcome.

"...the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers." (Revelation 17:14b)

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 have you chosen to be a victim and not an overcomer in Christ? Ask God to give you the courage to take responsibility for your choices and outcomes and not blame others.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Lord God, I bow before you in humility and ask You to examine my heart today. Show me anything that is not pleasing to You. Reveal any secret pride, any unconfessed sin, any rebellion or unforgiveness that may be hindering my relationship with You. I know that I am Your beloved child, having received You into my heart and life and having accepted Your death as penalty for my sinfulness. The price You paid covered me for all time, and my desire is to live for You all the time. 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