

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 – September 15, 2019

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” Job 23:10 (NIV)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—In his book **‘A Grief Observed’**, CS Lewis describes pain as a megaphone that shouts into our existence to get our attention.

“We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

There are many types of pain. There is physical pain during illness and relational pain when you lose someone you love. There is also emotional and spiritual pain anyone can experience when they come to a dead end on the road of dream, profession, calling or mission.

Dead ends occur when the direction we thought God was taking us changes, or when we come to a complete stop. Dead ends can be spiritually painful because it’s often in these confusing places that one’s faith is tested. We may question God’s affection for us and we may wonder if He is who He says He is.

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Not only can our faith be tested, but our sense of identity can be as well. ‘*Am I still loved by God?*’ ‘*Has He forgotten me?*’ ‘*Does He still have a plan for me*’, or ‘*Is He done using me for His Kingdom?*’

In the confusing spot of a dead end, a heart check is often needed. Why do we do what we do? Is our dream, profession, calling or mission about our ego, desires, and wants, or do we serve out of a pure love for Christ? Have we allowed what we do define us, or does our relationship with our Creator define us?

It’s during the painful, but often spiritually fruitful seasons of experiencing a dead end in our dream, profession, calling or mission, that we may truly understand for the first time—or understand afresh—who we are in Christ and who He is to us.

A dead end, like the pain described by Lewis, serves as a megaphone to get our attention. This is why it can be the very reason that we stop long enough to really look up. In the desire to perform, earn, get ahead, and do amazing things for God, we may rush, rush, rush, but when we hit a dead end, we are forced to stop to inquire of the Lord. **Dead ends can deepen us and increase our spiritual focus.**

Isn’t it awesome that a dead end can lead to greater intimacy with our Lord and Savior!?! Have you hit a dead end? In the midst of the confusion, frustration, or worry, stop and look up. Ask God what He wants to do in your life. He isn’t done with you. As long as you are breathing, He has a plan to use you in His Kingdom.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

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: If you are experiencing a dead end...whether it be a dream, profession, calling, mission, etc., ask the Lord to reveal to you how He wants to bring fruit from it.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Lord, I praise You that You will bring fruit from my dead end. You will never leave me or forsake me and You give meaning and purpose to all things in my life—both good and bad. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King