

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 8, 2019

“We are [regarded as] fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ...” 1 Corinthians 4:10a (AMP)

365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES—Sometimes we are seen or [regarded as] fools for Christ; but “*Fools*” find favor from skeptics after life’s hardships take their toll on unwise living. By God’s grace, our lives and our testimonies speak about the love and the peace the Lord offers when we surrender to Him through faith in His Son Jesus! Once labeled a “*Fool*”, we are then able to offer life that is truly life!

The “*wise*” Corinthians looked down on Paul’s simplistic preaching of the cross of Christ’s love as incomplete, even foolish. It’s no wonder those immersed in the complexity of a world whose wisdom is built on human intelligence and ingenuity are offended by someone who calls them out for their contempt for the cross and for their selfish living. If a Christian is branded a “*Fool*” for his/her faith, they must graciously and unashamedly stay true to proclaiming the gospel’s power. **Avoid being put to shame by society’s skeptics and instead shamelessly share the love of Jesus.**

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Are you hesitant to share the gospel for fear of being shunned as a fanatic? If so, pause, pray and inhale the love of the Lord, the security of His Son Jesus and courage from the Holy Spirit. Next, exhale the fear of being rejected, pride from not wanting to be offensive and the need to be in control of uncertain outcomes. As you admit your own struggles and doubts, you earn the trust to tell others how you came to trust Christ, and how you learned from Him to experience peace in the middle of struggles and reassurance in your doubts. Unloved hearts yearn for God’s love!

Above all, reflect often on how Jesus walked in humility, but boldly proclaimed the truth of God and the pathway to forgiveness through faith and repentance. When questioned for having the credentials to speak about God, since He was “*only*” a carpenter from Nazareth, Jesus leaned into His calling from His heavenly Father for validation and acceptance. You are in good company, accompanied by early Christ followers. Following His immediate death, resurrection and ascension, they were ordered by authorities to stop speaking about the divine authority of Jesus. We are, as they were—compelled by the love of God to risk being called “*Fools*” for Christ; and sometimes—as life happens, redeemed “*Fools*” may become wise in the eyes of unredeemed fools.

“Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.’” (Acts 5:29-32) *“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”* (Acts 6:7)

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: Who is the Lord leading you to boldly tell your my story of falling in love with Jesus in a winsome and gracious manner?

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, when others shame or dismiss me for Christ’s sake, help me rest in Your validation and acceptance as Your child redeemed by Your love and grace. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King