First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 October 20, 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 – October 20, 2019

"And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God."

1 Samuel 23:16 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—Strength in God is significant, as it is our stronghold when we are in serious trouble. It is our source of encouragement and our motivation to persevere. Strength in God is easily accessible and always available. His strength is an unlimited reservoir of resolve. It may see us through the dying and death of a loved one. It lubricates the grinding grief of our heart and keeps us from total despair. The Lord's strength is what gives us hope when our financial fortunes are tentative at best or maybe have been swept away altogether; but His strength will see us through a maze of money mishaps.

The Sovereign strength of God is strong, unbending, and unyielding. Our confidence may be crumbling, our health may be hemorrhaging, or our relationships may be a complexity of confusion; but lean on the Lord and draw your strength from your Savior. Prayer to the Almighty positions you to receive His power, so punctuate the power of God in your life with faith-filled prayer.

Moreover, God's instruments for infusion of His strength are His people. Invite the encouragement of the Lord's angelic agents. They are His ambassadors of goodwill, and their lives and spirits reflect His strength. These are special friends or maybe family members who remain true when challenging things happen to you.

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Be sure to stick with the ones who stick with you and do not be embarrassed to lean on others during those "*lean times*". Like a transfusion of blood, you may need a transfusion of faith. Your prayer platelets have fallen below what's normal to a level of dangerous discouragement. Ask for prayer so that God will strengthen you and keep you focused in the middle of your own gnawing needs. Ask for prayer to be an encouragement to those who have encouraged you. Do not deny others the opportunity to strengthen you with their presence and prayers.

Lastly, be quick to strengthen others in the name of the Lord. Write a note of encouragement to a friend or leave an encouraging prayer on a family member's voicemail. In some creative way, let those who are struggling know you are thinking of them. Each day seek someone you can strengthen in your Savior's Name. Your goal is to get them to God, and His strength will stretch their faith way beyond your initial encouragement.

"Wealth and honor come from you; You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." (1 Chronicles 29:12)

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 can you strengthen in the Lord today or this week with a kind word or heartfelt prayer?

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:</u> "Lord, You are my strength and shield. I trust You with all my heart. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise You. (Psalm 28:7). This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King