First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 October 27, 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 27, 2019

"With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall." 2 Samuel 22:30 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—In Christ we are confident, and He is our confidence. We do not have to waver in fear or regret if Jesus is with us. However, there are times when obstacles can seem overwhelming; our faith may stumble, and fear may lead our flesh to falter in its commitment. This is when we lean into the Lord in prayer and renew our confidence in Christ. It places our trust back on our unshakeable Savior because so much of our confidence is based on perspective.

Perspective reminds us of the right questions to ask. Has God called me to this current circumstance or situation? Can I be confident in Christ and continue? Yes, you can advance in your adversity because the Almighty is not against you, but for you. You can scale your wall of worry by faith!

Our confidence can be crushed under the weight of cruel people. You may know people right now who are intimidated by your life. Instead of praising your good deeds, they are repulsed by righteous acts. Your life might remind them of how they once were or maybe how they need to be. Your character makes them uncomfortable, and so they may in many different ways, pressure you to change to try and relieve their pain of conviction. They want you to worship with them at the altar of mediocrity.

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People comfortable in their sin do not want to be reminded of their selfish motives. They instinctively attack anyone who is confident in their Christian walk. They want you to go back to your pre-Christ behavior, so they will feel comfortable around you. So, how does Christ want you to respond? He loves us through our bad behavior and malicious motives. He does not expect us to compromise our character or convictions, but He expects us to express our differences with grace and mercy.

In our confidence, we need not be combative with characterless characters. They are lost and hurt and feel guilty and alone. What they need is the love of God to extend broadly into their heart and soul, so stay confident that you are Christ's conduit for His love. Respond to rejection with acceptance and extend compliments to criticism. Reach out and love those who love to hurt, because they hurt.

Our confidence in Christ cannot be shaken because He is alive and well; so, stand firm by faith. Move forward on your knees in prayer and dependence on God. Confidence in Christ is bold but humble. It is engaging but calm. It is quick to ask questions but slow to answer in judgment. So, wherever you are and wherever you go, be confident that Christ is growing the faith of those around you.

In your own life you can be confident that Christ is in control. Above all else, your confidence is not based on your bank account, your clothes, or your looks. It is not contingent on where you live or what you drive. It is based on Christ alone.

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

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:** What in your life do you need to start, continue, complete or maybe even stop, knowing Christ can be trusted with the outcome?

<u>Prayer of reflection you might pray this week:</u> "Heavenly Father, I place my confidence in Christ alone for me to carry on, in and according to Your Will for my life. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King