First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 November 24, 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 - November 24, 2019

"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:8 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—The Christian life is not designed for maintenance or meant for maintaining. The Christian who is vibrant and alive is a maturing disciple. As a growing believer in Christ, you are in the process of adding to and developing your character. Your faith is not static; rather, it is dynamic and nimble. You are building a life of character that can stand against the winds of adversity and enjoy the blessings of prosperity. As a conscientious character builder, you are to possess these qualities of Christ in an ever-increasing measure.

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

Your process of character development is a conscious effort. It starts with faith and ends with love. These are the bookends of God's expectations for your character. It starts with faith, because that is the doorway to God. Faith is how you approach God and how you appropriate His virtue into your life. Faith allows you to find your Heavenly Father and learn from Him. Faith gives you ears to hear and a heart for change. Love, on the other hand, deals with motive.

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Start by asking God to increase your faith. An expanded capacity for faith and trust opens the door to other opportunities for life transformation. Faith taken for granted or taken lightly is not faith; so do not disguise shallow or flippant religious-speak as faith. Faith is focused on God, and there is a relentless resolve to understand Him and His word. The Bible is a treasure trove of truth that leads to understanding the character of God; faith is bolstered through the Bible. The Scripture ignites your faith. That faith becomes radically robust as you feast and learn of God through His Holy Writ. Do not underestimate the potential of increasing your measure of faith by knowing and applying God's Word.

Lastly, use love as 'warm oil' to massage truth into your life and into the life of others. Like a sore muscle, life needs the soothing effect of love. Love motivates faith and is also motivated by faith. Your love gives you permission into the life of a person—to influence their life. If they know they are loved, then your influence is trusted. People will receive want what you have when they are unconditionally loved; so, make sure what you are offering them is authentic.

Everything you do needs to be inspired by love for God and people. The greatest from the trilogy of faith, hope, and love, is love!

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 needs to be remodeled by the Holy Spirit's restoration? Do not settle for the maturation of your past character. Ask God by His grace, to continue growing your character more into the likeness of His Son Jesus.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Heavenly Father, I want to continuing building a life of character and maturity. Therefore, help me to bring my emotions under the control of the Spirit. Help me to 'check' my loud talk, my insistence on having my way, my fears, doubts. Root out any bad attitude, foolish thoughts or wrong motives that may start to formulate in my mind, which may hinder my growth or infect my spiritual life. Help me to take every thought captive to Christ – so that I may become a fruitful branch and bear much fruit - to Your glory. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King