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

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people." 2 Corinthians 8:2-4 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—Christians give because they have so much to be grateful for. Our gratitude starts with our salvation in Jesus, as He saves us from our sin and saves us from eternity without God. New life in Christ creates an abundance of grace that gives us the faith, love, joy, peace and hope to represent Jesus to a wayward world. Gratitude begins with God's goodness.

"What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116:12–13)

Those who are grateful are not concerned about what they can get, but only what they can give. Grateful service to those in need grows our faith. "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." (Isaiah 58:10)

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Grateful men and women see their service on behalf of God as a privilege. Like a patriotic serviceman or woman, they do not wait to be drafted; rather, they enthusiastically enlist in the Lord's army. A grateful child of God proudly represents heaven (his home country) in battle against the enemy and in care for the bedridden and walking wounded.

Gratitude gives us a pure motivation to pour our lives into the lives of those seeking God. So, we aggressively give because the Lord has abundantly given to us. He gives us love; so, we extend love. He gives us peace; so, we extend peace. He freely gives forgiveness; so we offer perpetual forgiveness. He gives us money; so we generously give money. Gratitude actively gives God glory.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." (2 Corinthians 9:12)

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:** What is the depth of your gratitude to God? Is your giving reflected and motivated by your gratitude to Him? Ask God to grow your grateful heart to be reflected by your generous love toward others.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Lord, teach me to offer you a heart of thanksgiving and praise in all my daily experiences of life. Teach me to be joyful always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all my circumstances. For this is Your will for my life. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18) I long to bring pleasure to Your heart daily. Break the power of the enemy in my life. Defeat Him through my sacrifice of praise. Change my outlook and attitude into one of joyful contentment with my present circumstances. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King