First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 1 December 15, 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 15, 2019

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

<u>365 DAYS OF POSSIBILITIES</u>—During this time of year some call, 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year' and one of the 'Busiest Times of the Year', has Lord been laying it on your heart that this might also be the time for you to slow down and take time to listen to Him? <u>As a matter of fact, did you know that the words 'listen' and 'silent' are the exact same letters?</u>

Recently, I have felt God strongly laying on my heart during this Advent Season, the need to stress the importance of our not neglecting to take extra time to listen to Him. To stop rushing about and sit and really hear Him. He has reminded me of something important: When we listen, we tune into God's unique plan for our lives.

It's easy to believe we need to follow someone else to be significant or to accomplish something meaningful. There is nothing wrong with celebrating another person's success or admiring the work God has given them to do.

But it's wrong if we begin to think that we have to do what they are doing because we believe the path that God would have us take isn't as important. That it won't be as effective, or that we have to find our significance by doing something other than what God has called us to. First Baptist Church of West College Hill – From the Pastor's Desk Page 2 December 15, 2019

God has given each of His children a unique path to take, based on their unique giftings, and each is important. Each person alive has been uniquely created to accomplish particular good works, so to copy someone else's path simply out of insecurity or a feeling of insignificance, is unwise. As I once heard and as you've heard me say, "Be yourself, everyone else is already taken."

God didn't call Moses to march around the walls of Jericho. Paul to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, or Joseph to become a king. Moses, Paul, and Joseph, like all of us, were each uniquely created to fulfill particular purposes at particular times, for particular people.

What if Paul had refused to listen to God and write Scripture because he wanted to fulfill another role or to be like his next-door neighbor? What if Moses hadn't listened to God to lead the people of Israel? What if Joseph hadn't listened to God to become Jesus' father?

Just as we have all been given unique fingerprints, we have all been given unique assignments to reach others. Therefore, we must take time to listen to the Lord to tune in to those assignments.

"And now, o sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways." (Proverbs 8:32)

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: Are you on the path God has for you? Make yourself some reminders to take some time with Him. To literally take some time to 'Stop'...be 'Silent' and 'Listen' today and do a check-in with the Lord, to hear His voice so that you can fulfill the works He has called you to do.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Father, I exalt and Honor You for Your Promises to me and to all Your children. You know my fears, my anxieties and my desires, but You said You have plans for me, for my welfare, not for evil but to give me hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11) Protect me, defend me, deliver me from all evil and Satan's attack. Guide me, guard me and direct me paths to the Ways that You have laid down for me to do Your Will. Forgive me for my sins and give me the discernment to follow Your Precepts. Please Lord, increase my faith so as to trust Your Word. For unto You do I daily lift up my hands to give You thanks and praise. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!"

Yours in Christ, Pastor King