

## POSSIBILITIES

1 Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming is a form of planning. **Gloria Steinem**

2 The whole of creation is constantly in a state of birthing — myriad possibilities, potentials, insights, energies, and qualities are emerging daily — and we are deeply woven into that process as midwives, participants, creations, creatures, and co-creators all rolled into one. **David Spangler**, in *Parent as Mystic, Mystic as Parent*

3 You have your own way of living your life, of dealing with problems, and of winning. Teaching is only demonstrating that it is possible. Learning is making it possible for yourself. **Paulo Coelho**

4 We have more possibilities available in each moment than we realize. **Thich Nhat Hanh**

5 It is not possible to stop love. **Alice Walker**

6 Half of creativity is seeing possibilities. That kind of seeing is what I mean by imagination. I keep saying that imagination is the dancing partner of faith. **Ted Loder**, *The Haunt of Grace*

7 Betty Friedan in her seventies wrote in *The Fountain of Age*: 'We have barely even considered the possibilities in age for new kinds of loving intimacy, purposeful work and activity, learning and knowing, community and care . . . For to see age as continued human development involves a revolutionary paradigm shift.' **George E. Vaillant**, *Aging Well*

8 The present moment is always full of infinite treasure. It contains far more than you can possibly grasp. Faith is the measure of its riches: what you find in the present moment is according to the measure of your faith. **Jean-Pierre de Caussade**

9 Writers, this is our moment. Artists, truth-tellers, beauty-makers, people who make parts into wholes, all of us who connect the private, hidden stirrings of the heart to our complicated human communities, history now calls us. Now is the moment to put everything we've got into creative engagement. Why? Creativity is an act of love; it teaches us to believe in possibility, it trains us to revise (re-see) the world. It demonstrates that "the interior life is a real life, and the intangible dreams of people have a tangible effect on the world," as James Baldwin wrote. We need all this. Now. **Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew**, in her blog

10 We create the art we need to create in order for the soul to know itself. **Carl Jung**

11 There is more to see in myself than just what I look for  
There is more to see in my enemies than just what I look for  
There is more to see in this country than just what I look for.  
I need this to be true. I need to stop looking for affirmation of what I already believe and instead see the world and others and myself through the eyes of a God who loves all of it madly.

--**Nadia Bolz-Weber**, author of *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*

### 12 Infinite Possibilities (excerpt)

At birth your children are filled with possibilities.  
It is not your job to limit these possibilities.  
Do not say, "This and that are possible for you.  
These other things are not."  
They will discover on their own what is and is not possible.  
It is your job to help them stay open  
to the marvelous mysteries of life.  
It may be interesting to ask,  
"What limitations have, I, unthinking,  
taken upon myself?"  
It is very difficult for your child's horizons  
to be greater than your own.  
Do something today that pushes  
against your own preconceptions.  
Then take your child's hand  
and gently encourage her to do the same.  
— **William Martin**, *The Parent's Tao Te Ching*

### 13 Use the Geometry

He left His fingerprint on a glass the  
earth drinks  
from.

Every religion has studied it.  
Churches and temples use the geometry of those lines  
to establish rites and laws and prayers  
and our ideas of the  
universe.

I guess there is just no telling how out of hand—and wonderfully wild—  
things will get

when our lips catch up to  
His.

**Mira, or Mirabai** (1489 – 1550), trans. **Daniel Ledinsky**, in *Love Poems from God*

### **Personal Transformation (book excerpts)**

**Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander**, from *The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life*. . . . .

---14 Our premise is that many of the circumstances that seem to block us in our daily lives may only appear to do so based on a framework of assumptions we carry with us. Draw a different frame around the same set of circumstances and new pathways come into view.

---15 We keep looking so hard in life for the “specific message,” and yet we are blinded to the fact that the message is all around us, and within us all the time. We just have to stop demanding that it be on OUR terms or conditions, and instead open ourselves to the possibility that what we seek may be in front of us all the time.

---16 The history of transformational phenomena—the Internet, for example, or paradigm shifts in science, or the spread of a new religion—suggests that transformation happens less by arguing cogently for something new than by generating active, ongoing practices that shift a culture’s experience of the basis for reality.

---17 When you give an “A” [the grade of “A” as opposed to a lower grade], you find yourself speaking to people not from a place of measuring how they stack up against your standards, but from a place of respect that gives them room to realize themselves

### **For Reflection and Discussion**

1 “Possibilities”--What does the word evoke for you? Are the associations positive or negative?

2 What lessons does this month’s theme suggest for you? Is there something you will try to do differently?

3 What advice would you give yourself on the subject of this month’s theme? Is there something you will try to do differently?

4 Does your experience at All Souls have an impact on your understanding of what is possible for you, for your communities, for all of us?

--Mary Beth Hatem, for All Souls Covenant Groups

