



St. Paul's shows God's love every day!

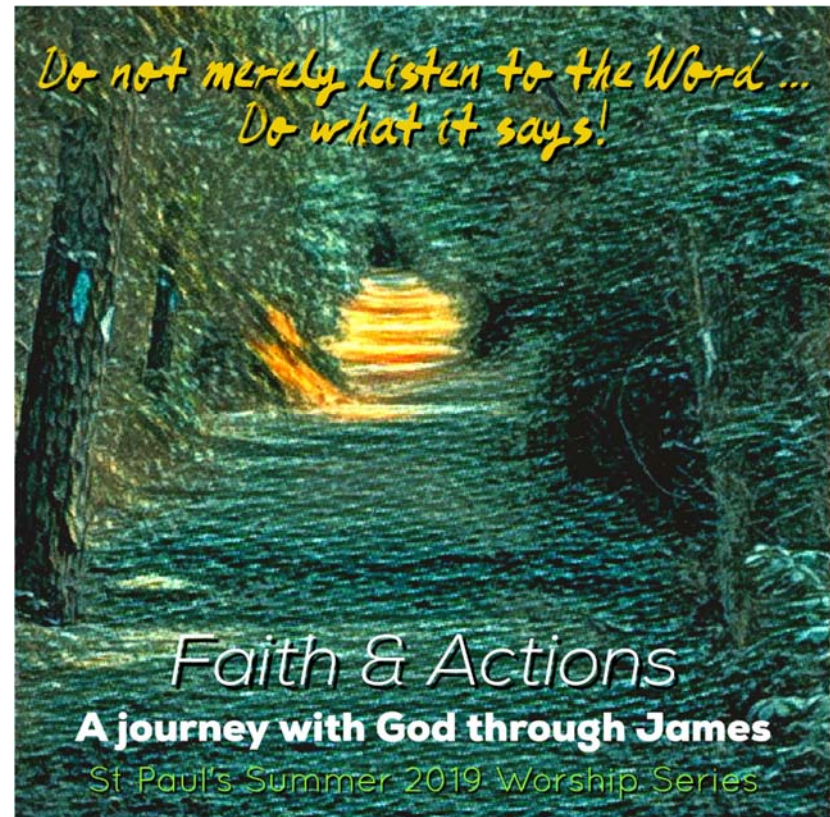
St. Paul's is a praying and caring church!

But what about you? Are you studying God's Word?
Are you discovering what God has in store for you
by digging deep with other people of faith?

Tuesday's give up 30 minutes in the morning or at
night ... TUNE UP with our online study!

Wednesday's at lunch time or at 7pm, a more in-
depth study here at church (We Zoom Wednesday
night). In the fall we are going to open up Ezekiel!

Sunday's after church in the pastor's office we
discuss the morning's sermon and the Lectionary
readings of the week. Bring a cup of coffee.



Ten Weeks in James;
Insight into the Christian life
Sunday June 16th – August 25th



James, is one of the most interesting books of the New Testament and it has challenged people of faith since it was written. And, no, we don't have any paintings of its author because there is a lot of debate as to who wrote the letter. It is now believed that the book was written late first or early second century.

The page above comes from a Greek New Testament that someone read in the year 316. James has been teaching people of faith since the earliest days of the Christian church. Origen of Alexandria (c. 184 - c. 253) quoted from James extensively.

23 JUNE

Obviously, no one enjoys doing homework. Bad memories of school days perhaps.

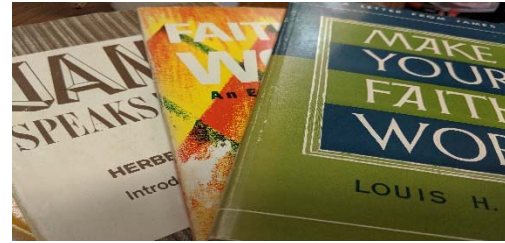
But, as we journey into the Book of James this summer I believe that prepping in advance for each week's message can give you the opportunity to sense how the Holy Spirit wants to work in and through you.

So, next Sunday, our two Scripture readings will be: James 1:9-18 & JOHN 6: 1-13.

The sermon's topic will be the 'Seven Tests of Faith.'

So I would like you to think about what challenges your faith? And, if you were to create a test to give someone so that their answers would tell you that the person is a Christian, what questions would you ask?

Notes ...



I have been blessed in many ways throughout my life. God has surrounded me with people of faith who have taught me and set examples how to live my faith.

Every time I enter my office, I pause to look at my book shelves because surrounding me here at St. Paul's are some of the books that guided the pastor of younger days. Pastor Stanley Lewis gave me the gift of these books from his ministry as one of the most incredible gifts I have ever received as a pastor.

Amongst this collection are several books on the Book of James, which I discovered was one of Pastor Lewis' favorite Bible books just as it is one of mine.

Several weeks ago I picked up MAKE YOUR FAITH WORK by Louis Evans from that collection and I opened to a place where Pastor Lewis had underlined one sentence in red instead of black. 'New attitudes have displaced old ones.' The author is referencing 2 Corinthians 5:17 but it is the essence of James.

'Faith and Actions' is my tribute to my pastor. Ten weeks in James. I hope you dig into the book with me; & your faith grows this summer in a way that is expressed through your faith-filled actions in your daily life.

Pastor Dave

QUESTIONS ...

The letter of James begins with a fast challenge to those reading it. ***“Think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy.”***

1. If someone asked you what brings you joy, what would be the first thing you would think of?
2. In the last six months what has your biggest challenge in life been?
 - a. On reflection, did it get resolved like you had hoped it would be?
 - b. How could that “test” have been an occasion for joy?

Doubt is a human condition that most of us experience throughout our lives related to many things including our faith. Today’s Scriptures offer insight into how doubt can intrude into our relationship with God, which then impacts our ability to walk in faith.

In James, the author after having suggested how God will provide wisdom then writes, ***“whoever doubts is like the surf of the sea, tossed and turned by the wind.”***

3. What causes people who have gone to church or called themselves Christians to have doubt?
 - a. How does having doubt in one’s faith life diminish individuals’ walk with God and also with the way they interact with others?
 - b. What moment comes immediately to mind in your life when you read those words from James?

Jesus faces a crowd in Capernaum they challenge him wondering what God requires of them. When Jesus says that they must believe in “him whom God sent” they ask for a miracle.

4. Why is it hard to believe in something/someone/God unless we get proof through an act or action?