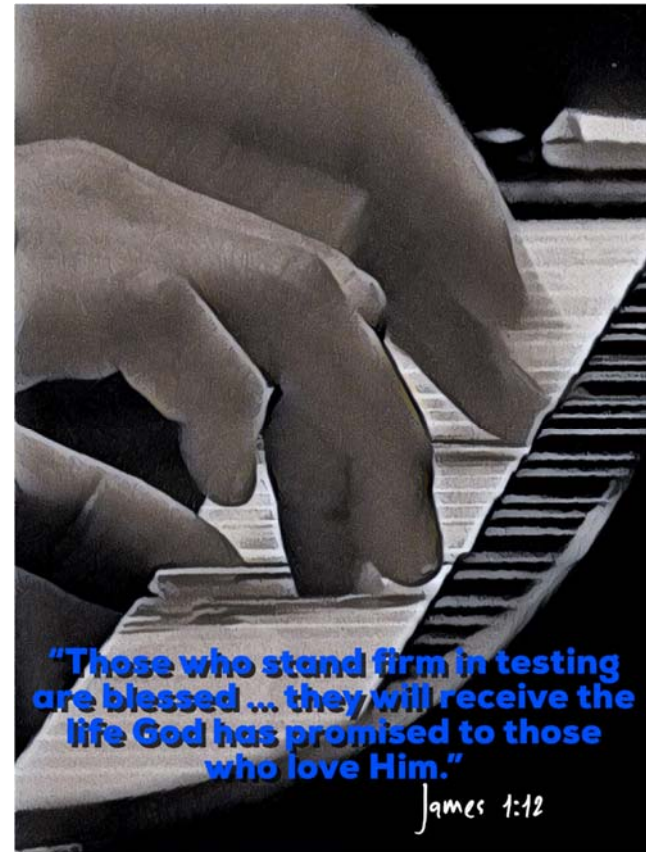
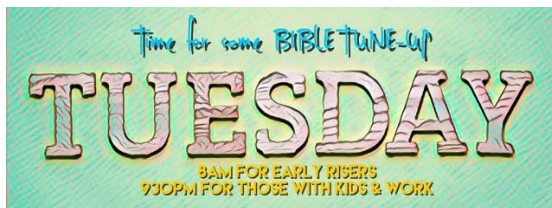


Growing through James ...

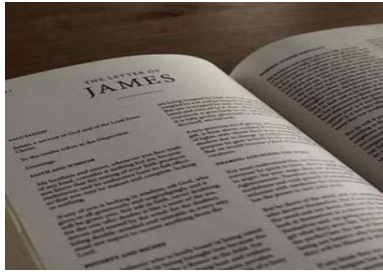
Faith and Actions is a 10 week sermon series that hopefully will reveal to each of us how God is calling us to live each day. The video's, the sermons, and the weekly inserts are all available at our website, <https://stpaulsalive.org>.

Every Tuesday throughout the summer we will be focusing on James as the key element of our Tuesday online Bible study, TUNE-UP. Have you considered whether a Bible study should be part of your faith walk? Do you have 30 minutes to spare (8am or 9:30pm start times) on Tuesday's. Our website provides the link and the Holy Spirit provides the guidance we all need. Please join us!



Faith & Actions Week 2

SEVEN TESTS of FAITH



I am asking you to spend some time this summer considering the book of James. In one of the Bible's on the desk in my church office this Bible book is only 5 pages long. It's located between Hebrews and First Peter. Ten sermons on 5 pages but I believe that this book is essential to my faith walk and to yours. I believe that if we take this book seriously we will be in a better position to live for Christ and to make disciples than we would without taking time to get into it.

James takes a positive approach towards Old Testament Scripture especially "the Torah," which are the first five books of our Bible. The author celebrates heroes and heroines of faith such as Abraham, Rahab, Job, and Elijah. He also holds to Old Testament values that Jesus also taught about.

One of the things you will find when reading James is how these five pages echo what you have heard from Jesus in the Gospels. It's an instructive guide to living in faith. Read James and then read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 because you will be definitely see the connection.

James maintains that God is a grace-filled presence in our lives, which is the essence of our faith. I hope you are opening your Bible to take in this book and energize your faith!

Questions ...

1. In Moby Dick, Melville writes these words for his character Stubb who is alone on the deck considering life and his future days, ***"I know not all that ay be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing."*** When we have God's perfect love in our lives John writes that fear won't exist. But, we each face challenges and trials. How do you go into the future walking with God when your faith is tested? Do those tests of faith create fear or do you sense God's Holy Spirit lifting you up?
2. In 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 7 we read Peter's words that parallel what today's sermon is focused on. He wrote, ***"The genuineness of faith being more precious than gold is tested by fire and may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*** Think about or even list your greatest tests of your faith. Things that push you to the edge. How do you get through them to glorify Jesus Christ?

NEXT WEEK ... **James 1: 19-27**