

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>.

Are YOU willing to give up 30 minutes on Tuesday to see if our **TUNE UP BIBLE STUDY** is right for you?

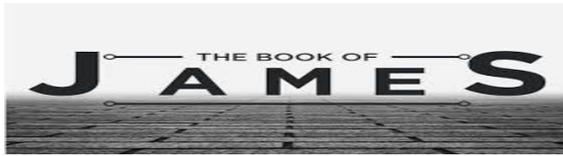


WORSHIP at the RIVER returns next Sunday evening at 7pm! Join us at the RED BANK BATTLEFIELD PARK for a celebration of the music of Fanny Crosby!



Faith & Actions Week 3

You are the **DECISION MAKER**



Whenever a month has 5 weeks our church has a tradition of faith. We turn to the book of James and as a church family we seek to be healed.

"If any of you are suffering ... they should pray."

"If any of you are sick, they should call for the elders of the church, and the elders of the church should pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."

"If any of you are happy, they should sing."

"The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve."

Ok, so I slipped in the surprise that is found in verse 13 of James chapter 5. If you are happy you should sing because once again James is attempting to close out his letter to believers with a clear message about community and the relationship people of faith should have with God.

Many of us consider healing in a very subjective manner. You are either sick or healthy; disabled or abled. But, healing goes more to the soul and the essence of who we are.

We all need to be prayer for because I believe in one way or another we are all hurting. Today when I pray with some of you and anoint some with oil I am providing a moment of faith for the person with me and for myself. Neither of us know how God is going to heal but if we believe then we understand God will in God's own way.

So, if you are happy sing ... and continue to be a person of prayer if you have chosen to follow Jesus as your life's priority. Being a righteous person may cause challenges in the world but it is the person God is calling you and me to be.

Questions ...

1. This morning's Gospel lesson once again finds Jesus dealing with the Pharisees regarding their insistence that everyone follow the rules for living that those in power had established. Jesus says, ***"You ignore God's commandment while holding onto rules created by humans. Clearly, you are experts at rejecting God's commandment."*** Have you ever found yourself torn between a rule created by humans and stepping up to do what Jesus said that we should do in our lives?
2. In verse 22 James references his primary theme for his letter. You must be doers of the Word indicating that those who only hear the word "mislead themselves." Can a person really be part of any organization or have faith if they don't get actively involved?
3. Throughout Scripture we find references to caring for children. In today's reading from James he emphasizes orphans. Why is caring for orphans/children an example of true devotion to God?
4. The final phrase from this week's reading is "to keep the world from contaminating us." He obviously includes himself in this challenge. How do you experience the world contaminating you? How does the world successfully reduce your faith walk?

NEXT WEEK ... James 2: 1-13; Have you read James yet?