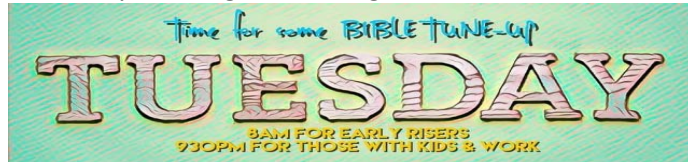


## Growing through James ...

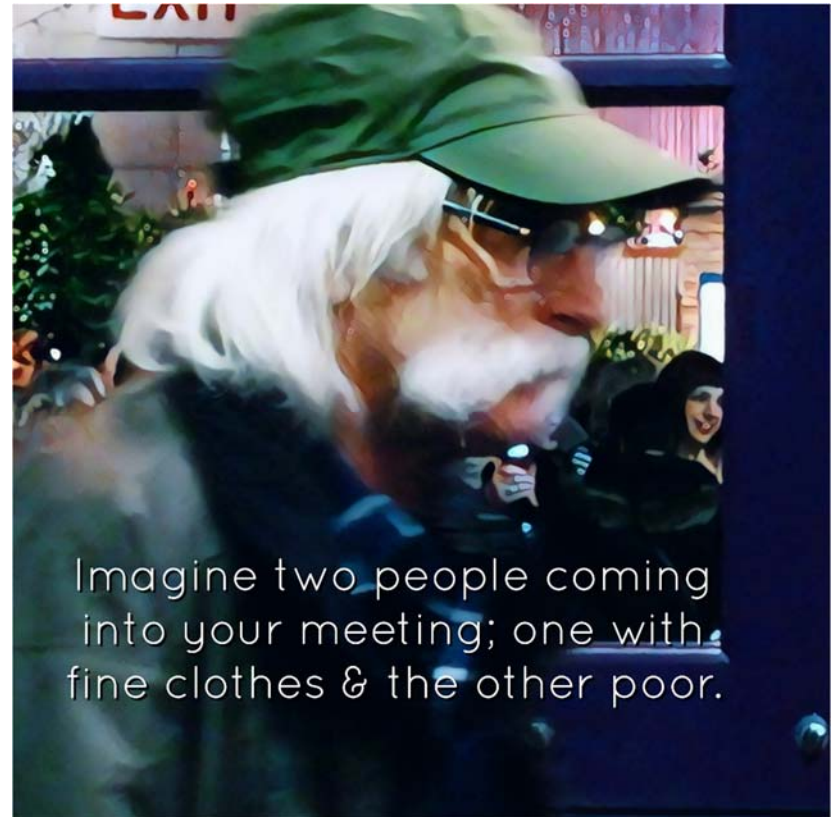
Faith and Actions is a 10 week sermon series that hopefully will reveal to each of us how God is calling us to live each day. The video's, the sermons, and the weekly inserts are all available at our website, <https://stpaulsalive.org>.

**Do you think 30 minutes in the Bible is worth your time?**

Join us Tuesday mornings or evenings for our **TUNE UP BIBLE STUDY**



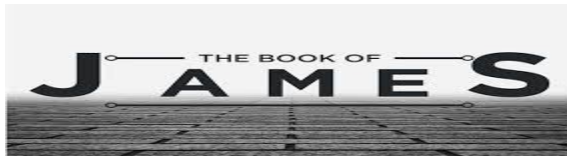
**WORSHIP at the RIVER** returns TONIGHT at 7pm! Join us at the RED BANK BATTLEFIELD PARK for a celebration of the music of Fanny Crosby! **REVIVAL TIME IS HERE!!**



## FAITH & ACTIONS

## WEEK 4

*Who really matters to you?*



The inspiration for my FAITH & ACTIONS sermon series comes from the pastor of my youth, Rev. Stanley Lewis. It was while browsing through some of his books of ministry that I felt led to teach these 10 weeks of lessons.

This morning I want to share from one of Pastor Lewis' books, 'FAITH that WORKS' by John L. Bird:

<sup>1</sup>"The saints of old used to speak of "works of mercy" or to use another term, "charity." Such works were recognized as part of the duties and graces of the Christian life, and every true believer would find the necessary time to visit those in need, and to give them material and spiritual help. Although we, in this country, live in a welfare state, there are still many in need of visitation and our religion is not complete unless and until we give attention to this. It is significant to note that our Lord state, that on the day of judgment He would mark out those who had really followed Him by their work of visitation among the sick and the needy, and would reject those who had not attended to this service (Matthew 25: 36-43). Around us we know of such people who are in special need; and we are in danger of deceiving ourselves that we are truly religious, if we do not spend some time in caring for their bodily and spiritual needs.

The Christian must not live in isolation; he has a duty to those around him but he must be very careful to maintain a life of holiness in relationship with other people."

I was pleasantly surprised that Mr. Bird referenced the Scripture I hold to as my personal theology, Matthew 25 (It is one of our readings this morning.)

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<sup>1</sup> 'Faith in the Works; An Exposition of James,' JOHN L. BIRD; Zondervan Press May 1968 page 32

## Questions ...

1. In the photograph on the cover of this insert two people are pictured with a closed door between them. Which person would you want to spend time with and why? Would you have stepped away from the homeless man to let him pass before going into the party if that was your destination? Would you have invited him in?
2. As you read what Mr. Bird wrote, how do you assess his statement about "the saints of old?" Do you think that today's church attenders are less likely to take on "works of mercy/charity" than people in the past? Why or why not?
3. How can you "spend some time in caring for the bodily and spiritual needs" of individuals who are in need today?



This coming Friday evening (July 12<sup>th</sup>) across the nation millions of people will be stepping up to light candles to showcase the calling in Matthew 25 to care for the stranger in our land. In this case it is about the children who have been in the news. There will be a vigil in Collingswood and I am the organizer of the vigil in Atlantic City. Please consider stepping out to light candles with us. The website with information about the vigils across the nation is [www.lightsforliberty.org](http://www.lightsforliberty.org).