

## 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>.

**WORSHIP at the RIVER** returns TONIGHT at 7pm! Join us at the RED BANK BATTLEFIELD PARK as we look at Colossians! **REVIVAL TIME IS HERE!!**

MAKE PLANS FOR **CHRISTMAS IN JULY** TONIGHT  
AT THE RIVER ....

**TUNE-UP on TUESDAY ... DO YOU ... HAVE THE TIME?**

JUST 30 minutes in the morning at 8 or at night at 930 ...

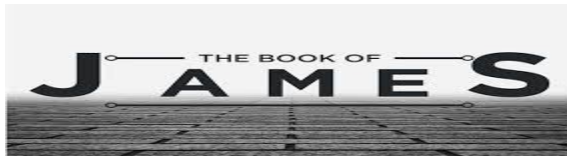


**FAITH & ACTIONS WEEK #7**

*An interesting dilemma ...*

*God or not.*

*You or God's Spirit?*



*In verse 6 in chapter 4 of James the author is making a clear concise statement, "God gives us more grace." His previous question for the reader, "Doesn't God long for our faithfulness in the life he has given to us?" truly delivers a perspective of God's love that the human condition regularly rejects or at the very least challenges.*

Chapter four of James' letter attempts to remind all of us who are reading it that we humans all too often are struggling to get something that is just impossible for us to have ("You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings."). The amazing reality is that the freedom we have to live as we choose has led us to experience a human condition that doesn't want to accept the greatest gift of all time, which is God's grace or love.

John Wesley defined *grace* as God's "bounty, or favour: his free, undeserved favour ... man having no claim to the least of his mercies. It was free grace that 'formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into him a living soul,' and stamped on that soul the image of God, and 'put all things under his feet.' ... For there is nothing we are, or have, or do, which can deserve the least thing at God's hand."

God's creative powers are beyond our comprehension and if we attempt to make God into some type of human then God's love for all humanity exceeds anything we can understand. But, God is God ... God is continuously giving more grace ... more love ... and God is calling us to be faithful ... to live the lives God wants us to live; God sent Jesus so we could understand that.

## *Questions ...*

- 1. The cover photo features two cars parallel with each other. It would appear one is driving to the rainbow while the other is driving away. When you reflect on your past week before today ... would you say you were heading towards God or driving away?*
- 2. Consider the moments in your life when you truly sensed or experienced God's love. Were those moments that made you feel good? Incredible? Are those moments that you long to repeat again? What are roadblocks in your daily life that redirect you away from experiencing God's full grace in your life?*
- 3. Freedom is something that we all celebrate. In today's Scripture lesson from Romans, Paul writes that something special has happened through Jesus Christ. The "law" of the Spirit of God is what sets us free from sin and death. Paul goes on to write how the religious laws that existed before Jesus were weak "because of selfishness." And, he continues to say that selfishness is hostile to God and that living through God's Spirit brings life and peace. Write down (Yes, it does help to write things down) three ways you can let God's Spirit direct your life.*