

## **INSIGHTS ON THE RIVER OF LIFE**

**You can't change or stop what the river gives you. As a White Water Rafting river guide, our training taught us to take what the river gives you and learn how to work it - finesse it, make good decisions in guiding your way through it, know how to recognize hazards before you get to them and take action to avoid them, learn to have fun when it's thrilling, and get people back in the boat if they fall out - DON'T PANIC ! If someone falls out, paddle to them, stay in the boat, and help them get back in the boat ASAP.**

**On the river in white water conditions (or in the river if you fall out of the boat), panic is your worst enemy. If you panic, it's very difficult to make good decisions needed to save your life and get you through the situation in a safe and sound condition. If you are the one in charge – the Guide – your panic can result in injury or death to you and/or those under your care in the boat.**

**On the river, small ripples in the current, Class 1 and maybe some smaller Class 2 formations are fairly forgiving if you go into them sideways, backwards, or at some weird angle. But Class 3, 4 and (if you are good enough and brave enough) - Class 5's success depends very heavily on how you "set up" (prepare) before going into the rapid. If you "set up" wrong or don't prepare at all, disaster is almost certain every time - falling out of the boat is very likely. How we "set up" (develop our relationship with our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ) makes all the difference in how we get through the class 3, 4, and 5's situations of our life.**

**God's Word is filled with instructions on trusting God. There are countless assurances that if we put our trust in Him, He will see us through. Not only does His Word teach us ways we can have the skill set necessary to navigate through the "Class 3's, 4's, and 5's" of life, but it will train us how to avoid the parts of those difficulties designed by the enemy to overwhelm us and take our attention off trusting God. There is always a path through difficulties, that will keep us solid, unshakeable, and knowing God helped us get through it. Instead of being overwhelmed with sorrow, despair, and discouragement as a result of the trial, we can be sustained and healed by God's strength and His indwelling and Comforting Holy Spirit. God is the Trustworthy, Skillful, Amazing, Guide that we can trust to navigate our path through the River of Life all the way to the Take out Point, when we'll be with Him for the rest of eternity.**

**Blessings,**

**Papa Paul**