



# The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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## A Forgotten Fire

Cory Waddell

I suppose one's response to their baptism is a personal thing. Sometimes there are tears. Often there are smiles and sighs of relief. It's fun to think back to that moment when you knew God's grace had cleansed your soul. What about this question: "What was life like for you in the six months after your baptism?" Were you on fire for God, talking to as many people as you could about what He had done for you? Or did you go about life the same as if nothing was different? Did your reputation as a believer change in your circles, or did your reputation stay the same? It's just a guess, but I suspect many Christians have very little recollection about the weeks and months after we climbed out of the baptism.

One of the great stories of the New Testament is that of the Thessalonian Christians. These Grecian converts joyously accepted the gospel from Paul and immediately let that message change their lives in very visible ways. The apostle's letter to them was probably written a matter of weeks or months after he was run out of town. Notice what he says about their new-found faith.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the

believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 - ESV)

What inspires me from this text is the fact that these brand-new believers were so on fire for God that their reputation moved throughout the whole province. Their faith served as an example to be emulated by others who would hear the good news of Jesus' grace.

Go back to your own conversion. While it would be interesting to know what kind of fire we demonstrated in the months following our baptism, let's take this a step further. What kind of reputation do we have now? Is the fire still burning strong so that people would look to our faith as a Thessalonian-esque beacon? Or have we forgotten that fire and let it dwindle so that no one really knows about Christ's ongoing work in us? If so, what can you do to restoke the flames of excitement and show others what God does for you daily?

## July 13, 2025

Sunday Morning  
Opening Prayer Kevin Hayes  
Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Adam Cordell

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer Jerry Reaves  
Closing Prayer Rhyan Dishroom

### Remember in prayer:

Waylon Jones (grandbaby of Joey and Tara), he is in a Birmingham hospital having some breathing problems.

Amanda Fletcher, Brad Skinner, Jackson Brewster, Joan Henry (Sally's sister), Danny Carlton, Larry Jones, Norene O'Kelly, Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund, Tammy Henderson.

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd.

Our Summer Series speaker this Wednesday night will be **Peter Wesson** from the Mountain View Church of Christ speaking about the song "I Believe in Jesus".

**Tim York** will preach tonight.

**Brothers Keepers Group One** meeting is postponed until next Sunday night; **Group Two** will meet next Sunday night.

Our annual **School Supply Giveaway** will be this Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00. Sign-up sheets for each Brothers Keepers Groups are on the bulletin board. Please have all items at the building by this Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>.

All **Potter Children's Home Silver Coin Cans** are due back next Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next "**Rubies**" class will be July 27, after morning services; with lunch and learning to crochet. If you wish to learn how, mentor someone, bring a friend or provide yarn please do so. See Tara Jones for details.

Our **Annual Singing** will be on July 25<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Record for the week of July 6, 2025

10 am	11 am	1 pm	Wed	Contribution
104	83	63	90	\$4168.00

## Weekly Assemblies

### Sunday:

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.  
First Sunday 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

## PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Brett Petrillo

The fathers of New York City were trying to plan for growth. They figured the city was going to grow, but they just weren't sure how much. So, they decided to go on the liberal side and give themselves more room than they thought they would need. The city already had six or seven numbered streets, and so they expanded it all the way out to 19th Street. The named 19th Street "Boundary Street," because they were sure New York City would never get larger than that. Today, New York City has the highest numbered street in America, numbering all the way to 271st Street. Clearly New York grew much larger than they ever could have imagined.

It is interesting how we place hard boundaries and expectations on things. We feel we have limitations we can't exceed. We do it in our own lives, we do it to others, and we do it in the church. Too often I see people give up on growth and improvements because they have made up in their minds that they have reached their limits. People seem to limit themselves long before their actual boundaries even come into sight. As one man said, "Know your limits, but never accept them" (Anonymous).

Keep in mind that God works through faithful Christians and God is not bound by limitations. There is no telling how much God will expand our congregations and our own abilities. The last thing we should do is sabotage our own growth by limiting ourselves.

These powerful words of Ephesians 3:20-21 have never been truer: "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

### Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan