



# The Planter

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



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## Running Fingers Through His Hair

Samson is one of the most popular faith heroes in the Old Testament. Indeed, it is accurate to call him a faith hero, for that is how he is described in Hebrews 11:32. We love to tell of his miraculous birth, amazing strength, and ultimate triumph in the Dagon temple. At the same time, Samson is a polarizing figure because he does not fit the mold of the kind of faith hero we expect to see in scripture. While we understand that all men struggle with sin, Samson seems to have had an extra measure of difficulty, compared to other heroes. Several times in the few chapters of his story we see him succumb to sexual sin, anger, and arrogance. Reading through his life, one wonders if there is anything Samson could have done to keep his focus on what was right during those moments of temptation. Perhaps, as one preacher put it, he could have just run his fingers through his hair.

"How would this have helped?" you ask. Samson had a truly unique relationship with God. He was a Nazirite from birth, which meant (in part) that a razor never touched his head. Judges 16:17 tells us this element of his vow was the means through which God imbued him with immense strength. As long as Samson stayed faithful to his vow, God's Spirit would rush upon him when the time was necessary, and he would display this power. Thus, Samson's long hair was a very real reminder of the relationship he had with God. It was a reminder of where Samson's direction, purpose, and guidance were to come from. It was the kind of trait

that could have refocused Samson to the ways of truth and morality had he only taken a moment to run his fingers through his hair when temptations surfaced.

Today, none of us has this exact unique relationship with God. However, it doesn't mean that ours is not special. He is still the source of our spiritual strength, guidance, and purpose. Like, Samson, though, we may struggle with regular temptations that get the best of us. In those times we need to be able to "run our fingers through our hair" as a reminder of the relationship with the Divine that we are trying to preserve. For us, that "long hair" may be a special memorized verse that brings us back to focus. It could be a special object we carry in our pocket, or maybe a song we sing to ourselves. Whatever the trait or object, the interaction is meant to pull us out of a temptation fog and clearly choose to always follow God.

Being a man or woman of God does not make us immune to sin's power. If anything, it might mean the Devil comes at us with that much more vigor. Having a special token, memory, or action that keeps us centered on God's will could be an immense help in our walk of faith. Samson could have run his fingers through his hair. What could you do?

Cory Waddell

**November 3, 2024**

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer      Jeff Duncan  
Closing Prayer      Joseph Tucker

Scripture Reading      Eldon Alexander

Sunday Evening  
Opening Prayer      Dallas York  
Closing Prayer      Rhyan Dishroom

### Remember in prayer:

Remember in prayer: Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Carrie Price, David Paden, Randy Tucker, Sammy Wyers, Stefan Hoglund

**Oak View Nursing Home:** Betty Floyd, Jane Bishop, Jane York, Polly Hayes, Millie Hardin (Macon)

Congratulations to **Jon Dyke and Jessica Stowe** who became **Mr. and Mrs. John Dyke** yesterday afternoon. The wedding was beautiful; remember them in your prayers as they are on their honeymoon and begin a new life together.

**Brothers Keepers Group One** will meet next Sunday night.

Today we will have our **Fellowship Meal** following our morning services; then our 1:00 pm Kid's Sing and Singing and Devotional.

Record for the week of October 27, 2024  
10 am   11 am   5:00 pm   Wed.   Contribution  
85      84      81      81      \$3217.11

### November Worship Assignments

Announcements: Jerry Reaves

Lord's Supper:

Kevin Hayes

Payton Payne   Rhyan Dishroom   Brandon Stowe

### 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.

### Daily Bible Readings:

November 3-9 The Light of the World

03      John 7:1-24  
04      John 7:25-36  
05      John 7:37-53  
06      John 8:1-30  
07      John 8:31-38  
08      John 8:39-47  
09      John 8:48-59

## God Will Visit You

In Genesis 50:24, Joseph tells his brethren that he is about to die and that "...*God will surely visit you*" (KJV – other versions have "*take care of you*").

How would it be if God were to visit you? Would you have to make any changes in your dress, the books you read or the movies you watch? Would you have to speak differently to each other? Would your house reflect love and devotion or hatred and bitterness?

God is not literally going to come bodily to our houses, but He is there spiritually. He knows what we are inside our house when others may not know. He will hold each of us accountable for the way we act and what we do in our family relationships.

This word "visit" means "to exercise oversight over a subordinate either in the form of inspection or acting to change the circumstances of a subordinate whether for better or worse" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #6485*). When Joseph spoke those words, his people were enjoying the blessings of Egypt. But there was coming a time when they would be enslaved. At that time, God was going to visit them and deliver them to the promised land.

We need to remember that God exercises oversight of us and wants to take care of us. Just as God visited the Jews when they had needs, so God will visit us when we have a need. But we must stay in an obedient relationship with him. Why do we think that we can live as we like all of our life and then, all of a sudden when we need help, all we have to do is holler and God will deliver us? God does want to visit us – that is to assist us. But he is only going to assist those who are his faithful servants.

Let each of us live so that God can visit us when we need the help.

**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