

Thank you, Baldwin Borland...  
...for being our speaker for today!

### September Birthdays

6 Melinda McCollum  
11 Marie Burruss  
15 Marcos Perales  
16 Jim Burruss  
30 Kurt Hoffman

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the  
Lord is, there is freedom."  
2 Corinthians 3:17*

#### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

Preacher: Vacant

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# Indio Informer

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*"Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and do not lean on  
your own understanding."  
Proverb 3:5*

- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

## Hope in Difficult Times

By Fishers Church of Christ

Even in the moments when life feels like it's unraveling, God's hope has a way of meeting us right where we are. It doesn't always remove the struggle, but it gives us something solid to hold onto when everything else feels uncertain. Hope reminds us that God has not forgotten us and that His goodness is not dependent on how good or bad our circumstances look today. Hope is often quiet, but it's powerful. It shows up in the strength to take the next step, and most importantly in the comfort of knowing God is working in ways we cannot see yet. Because as we keep trusting Him, hope grows. It becomes an anchor for our souls, steadying us until the storm passes and the light breaks through again.

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18*

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." — Hebrews 6:19*

## Reflection Questions

- \* Where do I need to be reminded of God's hope today?
- \* How can I anchor my heart in God's promises instead of my circumstances?
- \* Who in my life needs encouragement or hope right now?

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give  
you a future and a hope."*

**Jeremiah 29:11**

## Clearer Vision Over Stronger Willpower

By Mike Mazzalongo

Many Christians think victory over sin depends mainly on stronger self-control. While discipline certainly matters, the Bible often points to something deeper: clearer spiritual vision. Sin loses much of its attraction when we begin to see it as God sees it.

Temptation works through deception. Sin rarely presents itself honestly. It promises comfort, pleasure, revenge, freedom, or satisfaction while hiding the damage it causes to ourselves, to others, and to our relationship with God. This is why Scripture repeatedly describes sin as deceitful. James explains:

The word "enticed" paints the picture of bait hiding a hook. Temptation survives by disguise. Satan rarely tempts people with the final result of sin. He hides the shame, bondage,

regret, broken relationships, and spiritual emptiness that follow.

Throughout Scripture, repentance deepens when understanding deepens. David did not fully break under conviction until Nathan exposed the true nature of his sin with Bathsheba (II Samuel 12). The prodigal son "*came to his senses*" only after discovering the emptiness of rebellion (Luke 15:17). Peter understood the weight of his denial only after Jesus looked directly at him following his betrayal (Luke 22:61).

Paul also explains that God's Law exposes sin for what it really is:

That phrase is important. God does not merely tell us that sin is forbidden. He reveals it as destructive, corrupting, and opposed to His holiness. Spiritual maturity develops as believers increasingly recognize the true nature of evil.

This is why prayer for discernment is so important. Christians should not only pray for strength against temptation, but also for wisdom to see temptation clearly. Many sins continue to attract us because part of the heart still believes they offer something worthwhile. But when God reveals their true spiritual cost, their power weakens.

The clearest revelation of sin's ugliness is found at the cross. There we see what human sin required and what God's holiness demanded. The more clearly we see what sin cost Christ, the less attractive sin becomes.

Victory over sin is not simply stronger willpower. It is clearer vision.

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