

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES: God's Word Is the Plumb Line For Everything

Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD...of the sons of Issachar who had **understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do**, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command. (1 Chr 12:23, 32 NKJV)

Spiritual Maturity...Knowing who you are, what you're here for,
and how life in the kingdom of God works!

Part 4: God's Word Is the Plumb Line For Everything

- **We contemporary Believers struggle with being “Biblically Insensitive.”**
 - **Moment-by-Moment Bible**...We have learned about the bible, studied its contents, even worked at applying its principles. Where we fall short is integrating the Word into our lives, moment-by-moment.
 - **Living in it**...The Father wants us to live in the Word, not just pay it a visit a couple times a week!
 - **What would change?**...How much would our lives change if the Scriptures actually influenced our conversations and shaped our decisions?
 - **Dialing Up Sensitivity**...The key to unlocking this powerful dynamic in our lives is to intentionally “dial up” our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leadership.
 - Read: Psalm 119:127
 - **Video**: Take a look at Believers in the underground Chinese Church as they are receiving bibles for the first time!
- **What does the Bible have to say about plumb lines?**
 - **Plumb lines are an ancient tool.** They were used by the Egyptians (along with trenches filled with water, to build the pyramids.) they are still used in construction today to determine set walls, doorways, etc. Plumb lines are spoke of in the books of Isaiah, Amos, and Zechariah:
 - **Put to the test**...I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the **plumb line of righteousness**. Since your refuge is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, a flood will sweep it away. (Is 28:17 NLT-SE)
 - **Test for alignment**...Then he showed me another vision. I saw the Lord standing beside a wall that had been built using a plumb line. **He was using a plumb line to see if it was still straight.** And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” I answered, “A plumb line.” And the Lord replied, “**I will test my people with this plumb line.** I will no longer ignore all their sins. (Amos 7:7–8 NLT-SE)
 - **Up to the task**...Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see **the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand.**” (Zech 4:10 NLT-SE)
- **Exhortation from the Lord on Tuesday**: If you were to walk around with a plumb line in your hand, how would it change the way you move? What Would you notice? I felt the Lord said, “**Get a plumb bob, set it up and walk around with it. I will reveal things to you through this experience.**” Here’s what I discovered...

- **It's Heavy...**It has some weight to it.
- **Employs Gravity...**A plumb line employs the law of gravity to establish what is "plumb" (that is, what is exactly vertical, or true).
- **Perfect Vertical...**Even though it swings some at first, it "settles down" quickly to perfect vertical. You can attempt to manipulate the movement of the plumb bob, but when you stop messing with it, the bob will always settle down pretty quickly to perfect vertical. You can shorten the process of settling down by "steadying" the bob with your hand.
- **No Human Effort Involved.....**It takes no human effort to use a plumb line. In fact, human effort just slows down or even interrupts the process of determining what is "true".
- **Moving in Plumb...**Even though you are constantly moving and changing position, the plum line gravitates to perfectly vertical. No matter what position you find yourself in, the plumb line is consistently at true vertical. This is what it means when it says the "Word never changes." We change, but His Word remains faithful and true.
 - Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. (Prov 30:5 NLT-SE)
 - The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever. (Psa 119:160 NLT-SE)
 - Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. (John 17:17 NLT-SE)
 - Standing firm in the heavens, fastened to eternity, Is the Word of God. Your faithfulness flows from one generation to the next; All that You created sits firmly in place to testify of You. (Psa 119:89-90 Passion)
- **The Mathematical Masterpiece that is Psalm 119**
 - **Acrostic Poem...**This psalm is an acrostic poem, a mathematical masterpiece.
 - **It consists of twenty-two stanzas of eight lines each.** Each stanza (a grouped set of 7 lines) **begins with the same Hebrew letter** at the beginning of every one of its eight lines, going in succession, by strophes (, from **alef**, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, as the first letter of each line in the first strophe, to **taw**, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, as the first letter of each line in the last strophe.)
 - Like the eight lines of each stanza, there are **eight different Hebrew words**, all synonyms, used to refer to the Word of God.
- **The Beauty of Psalm 119 in the Passion Translation.**
 - Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! (Psa 119:1-3 ESV)
 - You're only truly happy when you walk in total integrity; walking in the light of God's Word! What joy overwhelms everyone who keeps the ways of God, Those who seek Him as their heart's passion! They'll never do what's wrong, But will always choose the paths of the Lord.
 - I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. (Psa 119:19-20 ESV)
 - *My life on earth is so brief, so tutor me in ways of Your wisdom! I am continually consumed by these irresistible longings, These cravings to obey Your every commandment!*
 - Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. (Psa 119:37 ESV)

- *Help me turn my eyes away from illusions so that I pursue only that which is true, drench my soul with life as I walk in Your paths.*
- My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?" For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. (Psa 119:81–83 ESV)
 - *I'm lovesick with yearnings for more of Your salvation, For my heart is entwined with Your Word. I'm consumed with longings for Your promises, So I ask, "When will they all come true?" My soul feels dry and shriveled, useless and forgotten, But I will never forget Your Living Truth.*
- Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. (Psa 119:97 ESV)
 - *O, how I love and treasure the revelation of Your Word; Throughout the day I fill my heart with its light! By considering Your commands I have an edge over my enemies, for I take seriously everything You say.*
- My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise. Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes. I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies! (Psa 119:123–125 ESV)
 - *As a lovesick lover, I yearn for more of Your salvation, And for Your virtuous promises! Let me feel Your tender love, for I am Yours. Give me more understanding of Your wonderful ways. I need more revelation from Your Word to know more about You, for I'm in love with You!*
- **UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES...understanding** in one hand and **wisdom** in the other, with **the Word of God hidden in our hearts!**

The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm. (Neh 4:16–18 NLT-SE)
- Some Believers wield the Word of God like a literal **weapon**, slicing and dicing our opponents as if they will somehow appreciate our efforts, change their behavior, and completely yield their hearts to Jesus... not!
- The bottom line is, God's Plumb Line doesn't really need our help. **His Word IS the power of God!**
 - Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for **it has the power to save your souls.** (James 1:19–21 NLT-SE)
 - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. **God uses it to prepare and equip his people** to do every good work. (2 Tim 3:16–17 NLT-SE)