

NOW ... NOW

**See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
(Ephesians 5:15-16)**

- **The word “now” in your Bibles:**

1) Its occurrences: 2,142 times in the Bible

a) The Old Testament:

b) The New Testament:

c) The Epistles:

2) Its usage:

a) It introduces a new _____.

b) It emphasizes _____ or the _____.

c) It is found _____ in the same verse 7x in the NT.

A. The NOW of RECEIVING SALVATION. (2 Cor. 6:1-2)

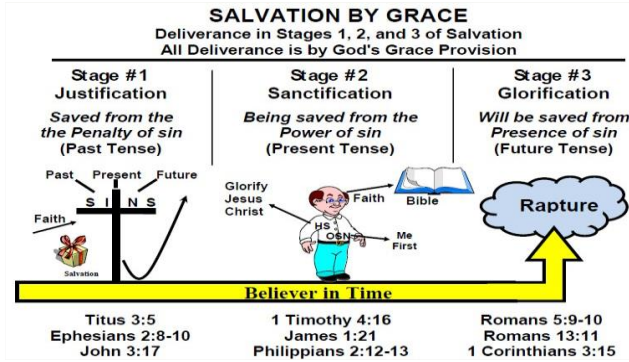
2 Corinthians 6:1-2 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation.

B. The NOW of Being a SPECIAL PEOPLE. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are **now** the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but **now** have obtained mercy.

C. The NOW of SPIRITUALITY & GROWTH (1 Cor. 3:1-4)

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until **now** you were not able to receive it, and even **now** you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?



D. The NOW of SPIRITUAL SERVICE to OTHERS. (Romans 1:13)

Romans 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

E. The NOW of SPIRITUAL AWAKENESS. (Romans 13:11-14)

Romans 13:11-14 And do this, knowing the time, that **now** it is high time to awake out of sleep; for **now** our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

F. The NOW of SCRIPTURAL CLARITY (1 Cor. 13:8-12)

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For **now** we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. **Now** I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

G. The NOW of SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE. (2 Cor. 5:14-17)

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from **now** on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet **now** we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.