

## A Good Example

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The Lord used the imagery of a plumb line to teach a valuable lesson to His people in chapter 7 in the book of Amos. In the first six verses, Amos asked the Lord not to send locust swarms and fire on His people. In both cases the Lord relented. Then the Lord sent a strong message to Israel via Amos.

*Thus He showed me: Behold the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold I am setting a plumb line in the mist of my people Israel; I will not pass by them any more" (Amos 7:7, 8).*

In our time, a plumb is a cone-shaped brass weight suspended by a line that is used in construction to make a true vertical line. The plumb line is held next to a wall or post to determine if it is straight. When the object being measured is not vertical it is said to be "out of plumb" or "out of true."

God's word is like a plumb line. The Lord is telling Israel they must measure their lives against, and live in accordance with, His word. The Bible tells us we are like a plumb line, an example for a world that is "out of plumb." Jesus demonstrated service and humility when He washed the disciples' feet. *For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you* (John 13:15). We are never too young or too old to be a good example. *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity* (I Tim. 4:12). Paul said, *Brethren, join in my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us as a pattern* (Phil. 3:17).

God may be using each of us as a plumb line for someone in our sphere of influence. We are frequently encouraged to speak a good word for Jesus as we go about our daily lives. And we should take advantage of every such opportunity. We never know who is looking at us, therefore, it is more important for us to be a Christ-like example, a plumb line, for those around us to observe and emulate.

-- For the elders (Don Denton)