

NOVEMBER 17

Pattern recognition is what psychologists are measuring by the administration of IQ tests. From the standard 50 questionnaire, the test measures a person's ability to recognize patterns. A higher test score indicates a strength in pattern recognition.

We don't just see patterns in math and reading assignments from testing. They are all around us. God Himself uses patterns. We can see His patterns in nature and in our lives. This is because God is consistent.

A pattern is a structure, resemblance, order, or likeness of something that happened before. There are positive and negative patterns. Some patterns need to be broken while others need to be created.

Just like days of the week, months, and years are all cyclical; the seasons of our lives are too. We see patterns of Jesus all throughout the Old Testament. Events in the past foreshadow the future. Prophecies foretell events to come.

God is the God of time because He is outside of it. He is the only One outside of time. We won't need to understand all the details. In fact, we cannot understand it most of the time. But if we are His, we don't need to.

Daniel 2:21 says, "He disposes kings and raises up others... He changes times and seasons". God is the only one who can change the season, from Fall to Winter, Spring to Summer.

Here is a personal example of a pattern: a few years ago, the Lord called me to take some time off from attending church. It was my seventh year following the Lord. Farmers were commanded to rest their fields every seven years. Levite priests were commanded to retire after seven-times-seven years. The timing of Gods instruction in my life is not coincidence. Recognizing this pattern, I shall not be surprised should the Lord again instruct me to take some time off.

This does not mean we should make things up or find patterns that aren't there. Do not draw conclusions. Do not force patterns in your life. It is important to understand we are to allow God to lead us. Don't go digging for treasures where God has not buried.

Recognizing these patterns in our lives can help us understand Gods purpose and plan for us. We can anticipate His leading through meditating on Gods' Word.

It is important to know: Any Word that comes from God is God's Word. Study both what He said to you directly and the Bible. Any word that comes from God is God's word. Let's make that clear.

Should the reader fear that he or she does not hear Gods voice- not to worry. James 4:2 plainly says, "You do not have because you do not ask God". Your regular prayer time will resolve that issue.

We should take notes as we pray. Studying these notes will help you recognize patterns God has placed in your life. Should we pay attention to these patterns we will better understand Gods timing and purpose for our lives. If God is showing you a pattern in your life, pay close attention to it.