

The Biggest Little Word in the Bible...Is "IF."



A Lot about "IFs"...

THE "IF" SERIES

Some of the most profound truths come in small word packages.

One of these little packages of merely two letters is the word "if." Grammatically speaking, "if" is identified as a conditional particle. That is, it mentions conditions or circumstances upon which certain consequences follow.

"If" has a great variety of applications. They may involve:

- ***Blessings,***
- ***Punishments or***
- ***Opportunities.***

"If" is one of the first words a child begins to associate with logical thinking. The youngster as yet does not know anything about the formal process of reasoning, much less does he know of "conditional particles." But children quickly get the significance of "if."

"Gerald, if you eat your carrots, mommy will let you have a cookie."

Down go the carrots, because Gerald already has learned the significance of "if."

As one grows, the "ifs" come fast and furiously. They stir us into logical submission many times each day.

"If you finish your homework, you may go out and play."

“If you don’t stop lying, God will zap you and turn you into a frog!”

“If you take this medicine, it should relieve your symptoms.”

On and on go the ***“ifs.”***

Why is it that “if” is so well-understood in virtually every realm of life — except that of religion?

That is a terribly strange phenomenon, and it reveals how stubborn some religious folks are.

If we don’t understand how important the word “IF” is in the Bible, I am not sure if God would be pleased with us!

The word ‘if’ is interesting.

- ***It is one of the most important words in the Bible because it speaks directly to our responsibility to God.***
- ***Most promises in the Bible have conditions and the word ‘if’ speaks to those conditions.***
- ***Our responses to God’s commands affect our relationship with Him and determine our receiving from Him.***
- ***The word “IF” appears, between the opening of the Old Testament Book of Genesis to the last word of the Bible in the New Testament Book of Revelation, precisely...1,595 times in 1,420 different verses of the King James version of the Bible.***
- ***Similarly, a search revealed that the word “IF” appears 1,673 times in the English Standard Version, 1,588 times in the American Standard Version, 1,670 times in the Modified King James Version...and of course there are dozens upon dozens of other version of the Bible.***

Revelation 22:19, “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Jesus used the word ‘if’ all the time. Almost half of the 574 occurrences in the New Testament are in the four Gospels. Jesus always put the ‘if’ on man’s side and never on God’s side.

Consider the following promise by Christ:

“If a man keep my word, he shall never see death” (Jn. 8:51).

Does this text affirm that no one will ever be lost regardless of how he lives?

Of course it doesn’t, and most acknowledge that. It does affirm that no one, who “keeps [Christ’s] word” (the verb implies abiding action), will be lost.

But the particle “if” is crucial. It states a condition.

Note the following passages that equally are appropriate to our series of Scriptures:

- *If ... we hold fast the word, we will be saved (1 Cor. 15:2).*
- *If ... we faint not, we shall reap in due season (Gal. 6:9).*
- *If ... we continue in the faith, we will be unprovable before Him (Col. 1:22-23).*
- *If ... we endure, we shall reign with Him (2 Tim. 2:12).*
- *If ... we add the Christian virtues, we shall never stumble (2 Pet. 1:10).*
- *If ... we walk in the light, Christ’s blood keeps us clean (1 Jn. 1:7).*

In each of the texts cited above, observe the leading conditional particle. Further, note the action verbs that are connected to these particles.



There are many promises God has for us in the Word of God. However, there are some conditional “Ifs” Between Us and Our Promise!

NOTE: If we’ve been standing on the Word of God for finances, healing, a family relationship—or anything else—but haven’t seen a manifestation, there might be a very good reason.

- **You see, the love of God is unconditional, but His promises are not.**
- **Even salvation is attached to a prerequisite—an “if”—**

✓ For instance, Romans 10:9 says, **“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”** (NKJV).

So, when we feel like we’re in a spiritual stalemate, we need to go to the Word of God and find the “if” that leads to our promise.

Let’s Try this:

Go with an open heart, willing to change, willing to be obedient, and willing to be real about where we might be missing it.

Then we will probably see why our request has been on hold for some time now.

In the next few lessons concerning the “Ifs” in the Bible, we are going to look at promises God has given to us...if we do certain things. Yes, there is a condition...a requirement before the promise is fulfilled.

God’s grace is sufficient... “YES”...but, we must accept the grace offered.

As we look at Scriptures pertaining to specific promises, let’s spend some time meditating on each one.

Then...let’s ask the Lord to give us revelation (spiritual illumination) as to how we might need to make an adjustment in order to fulfill our part of the promise.

The Promise of Fellowship with Him

1. **“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”** (John 15:14)
2. **“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”** (Romans 10:9)
3. **“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.”** (2 Timothy 2:12)
4. **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** (1 John 1:9)
5. **“If you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”** (Mark 11:25)

6. “We know Him, **if** we keep His commandments.” (1 John 2:3)

7. “**If** we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” (1 John 4:12)

Notice that most of the “ifs” are centered around obedience to God’s Word—not just some of His commands—all of them. Any area of disobedience—unforgiveness, failing to walk in love, dishonesty, strife, envy—will get in between you and your promise.

So, determine to fulfill your end of the deal! Study the “ifs” and take a good, honest look at what you can work to correct. Then, buckle your seat belt because you’re about to launch into the promise!

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1151-a-simple-study-of-the-word-if>, Wayne Jackson



IF...by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too:
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream- -and not make dreams your master;
If you can think- -and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:.
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on! '

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings- -nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And- -which is more- -you'll be a Man, my son!

The 10 most powerful 2 letter words

The 10 most powerful 2 letter words: **“IF IT IS TO BE, IT IS UP TO ME!”**MOTTO!

<http://mygreenhat.com/the-10-most-powerful-2-letter-words.html>

101 two letter words in the Scrabble Dictionary

28 Powerful Words used hundreds of times in our every day conversations:

Am	Ah	Do	Or
Is	Hi	So	Us
An	If	Ex	Be
He	By	My	It
Oh	Me	To	NO
Up	Of	At	On
As	We	Go	In

ifUsed for introducing a situation that may happen or may be real, especially when talking about its results.

If we miss the last bus, we'll have to walk home.

If anyone has found a bunch of keys, would they please leave them on my desk.

You can come and stay with us if you want.

Are you planning to return to work, and if so, who is going to look after the baby?

We are ready to fight for our rights if necessary.