

“IF”

John 8:31-32

If...

- Small word with extreme significance.
- Found about 1500 times in various translations.
- Meaning: “on the condition that”
 - Begins the expression of that on which something else depends – that without which something else cannot be.

John 8:31-32

- “...If ye continue in my word, then are **ye my disciples** indeed; 32 And ye shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall make you free...”
 - To continue in the word, we must read, study, meditate, apply it to our own lives. (Js. 1:19-27)
 - Abiding in the word of God will produce a life that conforms to God’s will. (I John 2:3-6; Eph. 4:1; 5:2, 8, 15)

I John 2:3-6

- 3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
- 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
- 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (cf. Eph. 4:1; 5:2,8,15)

John 8:31-32

- Abiding in the word of God means that we are not following ...
 - Our own way. (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12)
 - The opinions of others. (Matt. 15:9; Acts 17:11)
 - Human religious traditions. (Matt. 15:3; Gal. 2:14)
 - The path of the majority. (Ex. 23:2; Matt. 7:)
 - The ways of the current culture. (Rom. 12:1-2)
- God's word is truth. (Jn. 17:17)
- Only the truth will make us free. (Rom. 6:17-18)

II Pet. 1:8-10

- ⁸ For **if** these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.
- ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for **if** you practice these qualities you will never fall. (ESV)

II Pet. 1:5-7

- **Faith** -- the foundation which supports the others. (Rom. 10:17)
- **Virtue** – moral good, excellence, modesty, purity. (II Pet. 1:3; I Pet. 1:9)
- **Knowledge** – information, what God has revealed. Wisdom for the discernment to live a virtuously. (Heb. 5:14; II Pet. 3:2,18)
- **Temperance** – controlling one's desires and passions. (Prov. 16:32; 25:28)
- **Patience** – steadfastness, endurance; keeping on – being faithful -- in spite of adversity. (Mk. 13:13; Js. 1:2-4)
- **Godliness** – Reverence; awareness of, and a desire to please God in every aspect of life. (II Pet. 1:3, 3:11; Titus 2:11-12)
- **Brotherly kindness** – thoughtful consideration of fellow believers. (I Pet. 1:22; I Cor. 12:25-26)
- **Love** – the deliberate desire for the highest good of others. (I Cor. 13:13)

Romans 10:9-10

- 9 “That ***if*** thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 - Salvation by grace is conditional.
 - Acts 2:38 → Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...
 - Mk. 16:15-16 → And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

I Cor. 15:1-2

- 1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, *if* you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.