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THE BIG LITTLE WORD "IF"

The word "IF" can change the meaning of an entire sentence. Take this scripture for instance: In II Chronicles 7:14 it reads: ***"(-- ) My people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*** The little word "if" has been left out at the beginning. Because it was left out it implies that God's people shall (no choice) humble themselves and pray, etc., but it doesn't mean that at all. The Word IF is used as a condition. The word if means in the event of; or on the condition. In other words, there are conditions to the promises of God and in the event of doing those conditions we receive the promise. In this case, it would read this way, ***"In the event and on the condition that my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*** It is a conditional promise.

Another place in scripture that can change the entire meaning is in Romans 10:9, where it says, ***"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."*** Once again, this is a conditional verse. When the two conditions are met then salvation comes. First, you must confess with your mouth. Second, you must believe in your heart. Some churches believe that baptizing a baby makes them saved, but this tells us different. The "IF" is vital in this case, because without those two things of confessing and believing there is no salvation.

Another place that brings comfort with an IF is in I John 1:9 where it says ***"IF" we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*** Now that is a wonderful promise, to know when we own up or confess our sin to God, that He cleanses us from the sin, when we do the IF.

God is concerned about the little things or He wouldn't have put the "IFS" into the scripture. Thank God for the IFS. It gives us reassurance that when we do IF, we can expect the result of the rest of the promises. If is a BIG little word.