



**GOD'S
BIG
“IF”**

Frances Hunter

God's Big "If"

by
Frances Hunter

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are taken from: New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise marked, ©1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc, Nashville, TN.- The Living Bible, Paraphrased (TLB), ©1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, IL; The Amplified Bible (Amp), ©1954, 1958 by The Lockman Foundation

God's Big "IF"

"IF" is both large and small! It is one of the smallest words in the English language, and one of the biggest in God's vocabulary!

"IF" has only two letters, and is almost discounted in the dictionary. Mr. Webster has very little to say about the word "if." He has three little definitions, and when I looked up those definitions, I didn't see that they particularly pertained to anything. But even though Mr. Webster has very little to say about the word "if," God and Jesus have a lot to say about it, because "if" is used 1,522 times in the word of God.

In many instances where the word "if" is used, it pertains to a condition which we must fulfill if we want to receive the blessings of God. In other words, God says, "If you do this, then I will do that." What a marvelous promise, because when we do our part, we know that God will never fail to do His part!

The word “if” is also used in conjunction with the curses that God says will happen to you “if” you don’t do what He wants you to do. I don’t want to receive the curses, so I’m not going to fall under that “IF”.

In the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, God gives us five simple conditions we must fulfill if we want to receive His blessings.

In the first verse, He says a lot: *“Now it shall come to pass, IF you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.”*

The first condition says *“... If you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God;”* the second condition is *“...to observe and do them.”*

Number three is in verse 9 where it says, *“The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your*

God and walk in His ways. “In other words, He tells us to walk in His ways!

In verse 14, He tells us that the fourth condition is, *“So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. “He tells us to hang in there and go right straight down the line and we will be blessed!*

The fifth condition says God will bless you if you do not go after other gods. The biggest idol that people go after in the world today is the idol of self. *“I want to do my own thing!”* Satan had the same problem!

He wanted to be like God.

He didn't want to serve God.

He didn't want to walk in God's ways.

He didn't want to listen diligently to God.

He wanted to do his own thing.

What happened as a result was that Satan was thrown out of heaven like a bolt of lightning, and the same

conditions that caused him to be thrown out of heaven apply in our own lives today.

God promises to bless us if we listen to Him diligently. Often we are so involved in “gimme, gimme, gimme, gimme” that we don’t take time out to let God talk. And He tells us not only to listen, but to listen diligently, which means with all your mind, your heart, your body and your soul. That means to give Him your undivided attention if you want to receive all the blessings which He promises in the verses that follow. In other words, give Him everything you’ve got!

Don’t be a half-way Christian!

Don’t be a lukewarm Christian!

Don’t be a middle-of-the-road Christian!

If you are going to go for Jesus, go all the way, because God likes fanatics!

“Observe” and “do” all His commandments! Don’t just sit there and be a hearer only.

The Bible tells us to be a doer of the word. You can sit and absorb everything that every preacher has to tell you about what the Bible says but if you don't get out and do what God tells you to do, your life is not going to be the abundant, victorious life that Jesus Christ wants it to be.

Another condition is to walk in His ways. Many have said, "It's hard to live a Christian life." The Bible says the way of the transgressor is hard, not the way of the Christian. The Christian's life is easy! All you have to do is do what God tells you to do, don't do what He tells you not to do, and keep walking down that straight and narrow road. That's all there is to it!

It's so easy to obey God. It is very hard to disobey.

Do you know why we run into misery in our Christian life? Because we get off the straight and narrow; we start to do our own thing, and we don't walk in the ways of God. "Well, God wouldn't care if I sinned just a little bit, would He? God

wouldn't care if I had a little bit of beer, would He?" One beer is as offensive to God as sixty-five martinis because God hates compromise. We need to walk in God's ways without any compromise whatsoever. God is not a God of compromise. Every condition in the Bible is the direct opposite of compromise.

God is a conditional God. He does not say, "Today it's all right to do it, but tomorrow it is not." God means every promise that He laid down in the word of God. He meant it 2,000 years ago. He meant it ,000 years ago, and He means it today in the 21st century. We must observe and do His laws and walk in His ways!

The only way we are ever going to have an exciting, wild, abundant, joyful, fun-filled, thrill-filled life is to walk exactly the way God wants us to walk. The Christian who is miserable is the Christian who gets out of line and says, "I don't think God sees me. I am just off the

straight and narrow so little, I don't really think that God will notice at all."

If you don't think God can see you, you had better think again! The minute you get off of that straight and narrow path God has you on, you are going to be absolutely miserable. The word says, "Don't go to the right. Don't go to the left. Walk right down the middle." Walk that middle road because the shortest distance between two points is a straight line! If you follow after the devil, and you get off to the right and the left, you are going to be following a crooked line and your time may run out before you make it to where that straight line would have taken you, which is right into the arms of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I can't wait until I get to heaven and I am consumed with the love of God in person. God's love is overwhelming and overcoming even down here on this earth! Imagine being in heaven and just sitting there with God and Jesus. Glory to God!

God tells us how not to miss it. Yet so many of us try to write a new Bible and say, “Well, God, this little sin won’t hurt me a tiny bit.” I tell you, that word “if” is a big word! Quit doing what you want to do and let God do with you what He wants to do. That is the thing that will make you happy - if you will trade the big “if” in your life for the big “if” of God.

I recently made a very interesting observation. God says if you will hearken diligently to Him, you will receive all His blessings!

God’s “IF” is a promise.

The devil’s “IF” is a temptation.

“Oh, come on, man, why don’t you go out with the fellows after work? Just have one drink. What did you give up smoking for? You know it makes you fat! God will never notice whether you are smoking or not.”

The devil tries to tempt you. The devil gets after young people and he says, “Oh, come on, just have one little puff on a marijuana joint. Just

one. It won't hurt you." He continues to say, "If you will just try it, you will discover what thrilling things it will do for you. It will send you on such a high trip that you will really be turned on!"

Do you see how the devil's "if" is always a temptation? He says, "If you will just cheat a little bit in your business." If you owned your own business, it would be so tempting to say, "If I cheat just a little bit, I will make a lot more money. If I charge that woman just an extra \$50 she won't know the difference. She doesn't know the price of the work I've done, so maybe I could just raise the price a little bit, and make an extra \$50 that I could give to God!"

That's of the devil. The devil tempts you to do the things that are dishonest. In the months prior to filing income tax returns, more Christians are tempted than at any other time because they are tempted to cheat on their income tax return.

The devil makes it so interesting. He says, "Oh, the government gets

too much of your money anyway so why don't you just cheat a little bit. Why don't you say that you gave \$7,000 to Hunter Ministries last year? All you really gave was \$3.46, but why don't you cheat? The government doesn't come and check up on you and you know Charles and Frances. Just go up to them and say, 'I put \$7,000 cash in the offering, but I didn't get a receipt for it, would you give me a receipt?'

Someone might think that Charles and Frances would do that, but they don't know us! Charles is a CPA and he says, "Jesus' signature overlays ours." God is honest and if we are created in His image, we will be honest, too. Do you see how the devil tempts people? Remember, the devil tempts. God promises!

One of the big "ifs" that people say – and I have heard this over and over again – is the one that says, "I would go out and be such a witness IF God would just heal me." Your "IF" invalidates the promise of God. In other words, you are saying to

God that you will do it on your own terms and conditions. What you are in effect saying is, “I am not going to talk about You unless You heal me!”

One time I thought God was going to heal me before I went to the hospital, but He didn't. However, I love Him just as much today as if He had reached down and said, “Let there be new legs on that girl!” Going to the hospital didn't shut my mouth!

I have news for you! You will never witness for God after He does something for you if you make that a condition of your salvation or your witnessing. I'm going to open my mouth and talk about Jesus all of the time. I am never going to shut it, no matter what happens!

Deuteronomy 28 lists more than twenty-one blessings that will come upon you and overtake you IF you will just do these five little things:

1. Listen diligently.
2. Observe and do.
3. Walk in His ways.

4. Don't go to the right or to the left.

5. Don't go after other gods.

Did you notice that three of these things tell you what to do, and two tell you what not to do!

Look at some of the blessings God promises in just that one chapter. If you meet His conditions, God will set you high above all the nations of the earth! Glory!

God said He would bless you in the city. What if you don't live in the city? Do you know where your city is? Your city is where you live. If you own a home, that is your city. If you live in an apartment, that is your city. If you live on a big farm, that is your city!

You will be blessed in the field. But what if you are not a farmer and you do not have a field? Do you know what your field is? If you are in the insurance business, your field is insurance. God will bless you in that field. If you are a secretary, that is your field and God will bless you

in that field. If you are a homemaker, God will bless you in that field!

Your field is whatever occupation you have! If you are in the construction business, or you are selling houses, that is your field, and if you do those things God commanded in Deuteronomy 28, you are going to be blessed in your field. You will probably build and sell more houses than anyone else in the construction field!

Whatever your field is, God is going to bless you in that field, IF you obey all of His commandments. That means wherever you are employed, God is going to bless you IF you meet the conditions.

He said you are going to have perfect offspring. When you have fulfilled the conditions, you are going to have perfect offspring. Now, you can look at your children and say, "You may not look very perfect to me, but God's word says that you are perfect. Therefore, I have perfect offspring!"

The next time your child disobeys, say to him, “Son, you are a perfect offspring. You may not be acting like it right now, but you are a perfect offspring.” If any of your children get out of line, say to them, “You are a perfect offspring because I have fulfilled the word of God.” That is just one of the blessings God promises!

It says that your crops will increase. If you are not a farmer, what is your crop? That is the salary you are going to get for the work you do.

Your basket and your storehouse will be full of good things. I have heard people say, “Go out and store up a whole bunch of soybeans because there’s going to be a big famine coming.” I am not worried about that because of what God says. His word says that my basket is going to be filled as long as I obey that big “IF” and I do what He tells me to do. I’m not going to worry about my storehouse ever being

empty because God's word says that I am blessed in all that I undertake!

Verse 7 tells us that you will have complete victory over your enemies. Did you ever have an enemy? Did the enemy try to steal your joy or peace! It is so much fun to have victory over your enemies! And to know in advance that you're a winner!

Your land will be abundantly fertile and productive! You will be established as a holy person to God! You are going to be an example and witness to all of the people of the earth. If you really love God, you are going to be an automatic witness. You are not going to be able to keep your mouth shut. You are just going to talk, talk, talk to everyone about the Lord Jesus Christ. That is one of the blessings that comes upon you. It says that all the people of the earth will be afraid of you. When people realize that God is on your side, they don't want to mess with you.

You will be prosperous in goods and children, in stock, and in crops.

The Lord will open to you His good treasury. Wow! His resources are unlimited and He's opening them to me!

A blank, unlimited checking account with God is better than a million dollars in the bank.

...So, **IF**

You have been planting seed to reap a financial harvest, but nothing is returning to you! Are you seeding to be debt free? If your return is lean, check out the "IF's in your life. 100% is easy, 99% bad. Example: disobedience, unforgiveness, sins, dirty language, complaining and not obeying parents.

The Lord will give you rain in due season.

The Lord will bless the work of your hands! Put your hands out in front of you right now and say, "My hands are blessed because God is blessing my work. Whatever I put these hands to is going to prosper because the Bible says so."

Then it says that you are going to be prosperous enough to lend to

many nations but you are not going to need to borrow from any of them!

Glory to God! It promises that the Lord is going to make you “the head, and not the tail.”

Then it promises that you will be above all men and not beneath them. That is one of the blessings which comes when you take the big “IF” of God! “IF” you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God.

The word “IF” goes all the way through the Bible. You might say, “Well, that is in the Old Testament. Isn’t there anything in the New Testament? We don’t have to obey the Old Testament. We live under grace and not under law.” God put those laws down to keep us on the straight and narrow. Jesus came to fulfill the law. That is why we don’t have to be legalistic and say, “IF you slip out of fellowship with God for one minute, that is it! You have had it! You are going right straight to hell!” No, the Bible says, IF, IF, IF, – *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our*

sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1: 9).

Here is a real good “IF.” In Matthew 16:24, and this is under the new covenant, Jesus said to His disciples, “*IF* (there is that big “IF” again) *anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me,*” Many people are under the wrong impression as to what picking up your own cross means. I’ve heard many say, “Well, I have this thorn in my flesh like Paul did. I guess my cross is that I must be sick all of my life.” That is devil talk. That is not God talk!

“My unsaved husband is my cross to bear. I have to get up every morning and I am so miserable because I have that old unsaved devil for a husband.” Talk like that and you will never get him saved.

Do you really know what the word means when it says, “Pick up your cross and follow me?” It means to die to self!

Why did Jesus pick up His cross? To die! That is what we need to do. We need to die to ourselves so the things of the world will not hurt us. We cannot get mad because “somebody said something that hurt my feelings; they offended me.” That is another lie of the devil. If we are dead to self, we cannot be offended! So stop having pity parties for yourself.

Another good Bible story about the “IF” of the devil is in Matthew 4:3-10. *“Now when the tempter came to him, he said, If You are the Son of God, (Do you see the devil’s IF’?) command that these stones become bread.”* Do you see how the devil as tempting Jesus? Jesus had been on a fast for forty days. Do you believe that you would be hungry after forty days? Do you think your stomach would be growling after forty days? Do you believe that Jesus, while He was divine was also man, and so He suffered the same hunger pangs that we do? I imagine in Jesus’ mind there instantly flashed

a picture of beautiful hot homemade bread, brown on the top with butter just oozing off all over the place.

The devil said, “Oh, come on, you have the power to do it. You can do it! Come on, do it!” He was tempting Jesus in an area where He was weak because of fasting, and that’s what the devil does to all of us. He tempts us in the area where we are the weakest!

But Jesus said, “It is written.” When the devil tempts you throw a verse of scripture at him right in his face, because he cannot stand the word of God. Tell him, “Devil, you sit down there. You sit in that chair over there, because I am going to read the word of God to you.”

You may not be able to see the devil in that chair, but I want you to believe that he is there. We can say exactly the same thing that Jesus did, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread (physical) alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ Then the devil took him up into the holy city, set Him on the

pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, (See, he is tempting Jesus again) If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: (the devil knows the Bible, too!) ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ anti, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Right then and there is where Jesus came right back to that big “IF” and said, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’”

“Again, the devil took him up on an exceeding high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, (Do you remember I said the devil’s “IF” is always a temptation?) All these things will I give You IF You will fall down and worship me.”

What he was really saying was, “Man, you can have the whole world IF you will just fall down and worship me!” This is exactly what the devil does to all of us! He makes his plan so tempting.

I remember a young rock and roll singer who was raised in a Pentecostal Church. He had a voice that the world will never forget because it had a haunting quality that will stay with the sinner and the saint alike. Then came the crossroads in his life where he was singing in a Pentecostal Church and not making millions of dollars. I don't really know of any church that pays a singer millions of dollars, but the devil came to him and said, "You can keep your relationship with God, but just think how many millions of people are going to be blessed by that singing voice of yours IF you will just go into night clubs."

The devil said, "Where you are living in poverty now, you will have your own private airplane. You will have a house with 81 rooms. You will have servants all over the place. You will have people who will even cut your food and put it in your mouth. But the devil forgot to tell him what was on the other side of the ledger. The devil forgot to tell him

that the end of all of that was death! The devil forgot to tell him that when they performed an autopsy on him there would be seven different kinds of drugs found in his veins. That was a young man at the very pinnacle of success, as the world measures success. I don't believe any singer has ever sold as many records as this man.

This young man listened to the devil, because the devil made it sound so good. The devil said, "You can have the whole world. You are going to have so much money that the whole world is going to envy you."

I remember the night when this young singer came to a city in Texas and took out a half-million dollars in cash for one night's singing. The headline in the next morning's paper shouted the good news that he got a half-million dollars in cash. He would take no checks. The newspaper was so excited about the tremendous cash he received, and I

imagine this singer really thought he was “hot stuff!”

Way down in the corner, in the back part of this same paper, there was an article about a “money-grabbing” evangelist who got such big offerings that the reporter felt he had robbed these poor people in church. It went on to say, “From the two hundred plus people who were at this meeting, he got over a thousand dollars in an offering.” Condemned! A minister of the gospel wanting money to spread the gospel gets publicly condemned for receiving one thousand dollars, but the front page story of the same paper glorified a singer who got a half-million dollars cash from his fans in the same city. You can see that the devil can make it look so interesting, but the wages of sin is death!

Colossians 1:23 contains that big word “IF” and God tells you some things to do. He said, “*IF* (If, if if, if., if!) *indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope*

of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister. "If you continue in the faith," he goes on to say, "you are going to know the mystery of the ages, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Jesus Christ living in and through you! What can the devil possibly give you that is any greater than the knowledge of the fact that Jesus Christ is living in your heart? Once in awhile I feel like walking down the Street and saying, "Hey, can't you see Jesus? He's in there!" I would just love to walk into a supermarket and say, "Hey, everybody, do you know what? Jesus lives in here. You probably think He died 2,000 years ago!"

What greater thing can the devil ever give you? He can't give you anything that can compare with the knowledge that Jesus Christ is living in your heart; living in and through you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Young people say, “IF it was as much fun being a Christian as it is being a sinner, I would be a Christian.” Did you ever hear anyone say that? Did you ever hear anyone say, “Being a Christian is a real fuddy-duddy thing! I don’t like to have to be a goody-goody all of the time.” That is the devil tempting you! It is always the devil who tells us to take another path. There is no life anywhere as exciting as the Christian life.

John 8:31 says, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, (they were new converts) *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”* (And here comes the verse that so many people quote without reading the verse ahead of it) *“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* (John 8:32).

Over and over again, I hear people quote the verse, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. “That is only part of the truth. You have to back up and

listen to the condition, and the condition that goes with making you free says, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.” “If you continue in My word.” You won’t be a disciple of Jesus unless you continue in His word.

And what does continue mean? Continue means to read His word. It means to do His word. It means to love His word. It means to live His word. It means to hold onto His word, and don’t let the things of the world come in to take it out of your heart. Then He says you will be His disciple. Then is when He gives the promise, but don’t ever forget the condition of God. Then “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Verse 33 says they answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’”

Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whosoever commits sin is a slave of sin.” (Did

you hear that?) “Whosoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

“Well, God, I am serving you, but I just dabble in sin a tiny little bit. Not very much, just a tiny, little bit, God.” But what does God’s word say? It says that anyone who commits sin is a servant of sin. Now look at this scripture, “And a slave does not abide in the house forever.” The servant of sin does not abide in the house of God forever, but the Son abides forever. And then He gives that wonderful promise, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. “ But you cannot be a servant of sin and be free indeed, because the Son will only make those free who are in Him. So we have to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are in Christ Jesus. We have to meet His “IF” condition to be made free. And it’s so easy.

Matthew 5:13 says, “*IF the salt loses its flavor it is then good for nothing but to be thrown out.*” That means IF you have lost your flavor,

you have lost your ability to perk up something!

Do you use salt in your cooking? Do you think for the most part food tastes pretty bad if you don't put salt in it? I do! I think it tastes terrible without salt. Salt is what brings out the flavor. If we Christians have lost our ability to flavor the earth, we have lost our ability to have people look at us and say, "Wow! Whatever it is that wild woman has, I want it! I don't understand what she's got, but whatever it is, I want it. I don't understand what she's got, but whatever it is, she looks like she sure is happy!" And I am! I am the wildest, happiest person in the entire world. I believe that without a doubt in my heart. I don't have to worry. I have victory over all problems. I've been set free! Hallelujah!

When our little granddaughter was two-and-a-half years old, she was sitting on my lap and began praying in tongues. I listened intently for a few minutes, then I said to her, "Spice, are you praying in tongues?"

I wish you could have seen the look on her face when she said, “Yeah!”

I asked her daddy if he had laid hands on her for the baptism with the Holy Spirit and he said, “No, Charity (our granddaughter who was then five years old) probably did. You know how she prays and sings in tongues all the time!” And don’t even mention that you have a pain when they are nearby because you’ll have four little peanut butter and jelly hands laid on you so fast it will make your head swim!

God is going to raise up fanatics two years old, five years old, ten years old! God is even going to reach old people. I’m glad God didn’t give up on old people or He would have given up on me a long, long time ago!

Sometimes when we first get saved, we sit down in our comfortable little pew and say, “Well, now I can rest. I’m saved!” You have lost your flavor if you say that and do that. You have lost your ability to

season the world around you. You need to remain a fanatic all your life.

I recently led a Catholic girl to the Lord and she's going to "salt" her whole church. She is really excited about Jesus. She even gave a tape to the priest on how to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit! That is really putting a little flavoring in the pot!

If the salt loses its flavor, then it is cast out. God says, "If you have lost your flavor, IF you forget, IF you are ashamed when you go to school or to work to talk about Jesus," then God says He will throw you out. And all because you have lost your ability to flavor the people around you. I'd rather be one fanatic in a high school class who talks about Jesus than to be the popular one that you can't tell from a sinner.

I want to be salty wherever I go! That fanatical husband of mine talks about Jesus everywhere we go. He acts like they know what he is talking about. He just goes right on and on. I don't know of anyone who

leads more people to Jesus than Charles. He hasn't lost his flavor a single bit! He's saltier today than he was the day he got saved! Glory!

Think for a moment. Are you a bigger fanatic today than you were when you got saved? Have you lost a little bit of that savor? Have you lost your first love (Revelation 2:4)? Do you need to get back to the Lord and say, "I had better get into the word of God. I'd better listen to the word of God. I'd better do what He tells me to do. I'd better walk in His ways, and I'd better quit walking in my own ways."

That is the thing we all need to do. Remember the three temptations of the devil! He made it sound so good to Jesus. He said, "Oh, you can break that fast you've been on, Jesus! You can break that fast. Just turn those stones into delicious hot bread with fresh country butter running all over the top. Or how about the world? Worship me and I will give you the whole world!"

Remember this: the devil can't give you anything but trouble since Jesus redeemed us from his control!

“Oh, if God would just heal me, or heal my husband, we would talk about Jesus!” If you don't talk about Him before you get healed, you'll never talk about Him after you get healed. You talk about Jesus because you love God! That's the thing that will make you talk about Him IF you really love Him. I'd talk about Jesus whether or not He had healed my leg.

The Israelites walked forty years and their ankles never swelled. I looked down at mine recently and said, “Ankles, you are not going to swell either.” I looked at Psalms this morning and discovered again it says, “How lovely on the mountain are the feet of them that bring Good News.” I looked down and said, “Hello, you beautiful feet! You're lovely!” You bring Good News when you talk about Jesus Christ.

Think about your own world how many times your life has hinged on

the word “IF.” Did your husband say, “If you would marry me you would make me the happiest man in the world?” That was a good “IF,” wasn’t it?

When our little granddaughter was five years old, she loved to help her mother, but once in a while her “helping” wasn’t exactly helping. One day, when her mother wasn’t looking, Charity got the kitchen cleanser out (which has a good bleach in it) and decided to wash the new carpet for her mother. Naturally, she made a mess of it! Joan said, “When your daddy gets home, you are going to get a good spanking!”

Charity said, “Call my daddy. I’ve got something to say to him.”

She called her daddy on the phone and said, “Daddy, IF you don’t spank me, I will never do it again. I’ll never do it again!” Something powerful hung on her word “IF.”

Many times we make a promise like that to God and say, “Oh, God, IF you will just forgive me this one

more time, I will never do it again. I will never do it again! God, IF you will forgive me this time, I will never do it again.” Then, we turn right around and break the promise to God, but God never breaks His promises to us.

The favorite excuse of many people for not attending church is, “I would go to church every Sunday IF there weren’t so many hypocrites in church.” Do you see what they are doing? They are invalidating the word of God. The word says in Hebrews 10:25 that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. And that person who sits at home thinks it is a good excuse to say, “Those hypocrites in church keep me out!” Beloved, I have news for you. At least the hypocrites are doing something!

Here’s another big “IF.” “IF I could just get my bills paid, I’d give to the church.” “IF I could just get my finances straightened out, I’d give to the church.” That’s just the opposite of what God’s word says.

He says IF you want to get your bills paid, give first! “But Frances, that doesn’t make sense!” I didn’t say it made sense, I just said that was what God’s word says!

He says, “IF you give, you will get!” Luke 6:38 makes that very clear. Jesus says, *“Give, and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

Here’s another big “IF” that stands in the way of our being God’s anointed at all times! “I am so worried. I have so many problems. I’m so worried about those children of mine. They’re on drugs and they want to sin all the time. They don’t want to do the things of God. I can’t concentrate because I’m so upset, so I can’t read the Bible, but ‘IF’ I could just get my family straightened out, I would really serve God and get into the word!”

No, you wouldn’t.

IF you want your children to get saved, be a real witness for the Lord, and get the engrafted word of God into your heart, and then see what happens!

What does Jesus say about worry? In Matthew 6:19-34, He tells us not to worry. The heathen worry! Jesus tells us not to worry because He will take care of us. Philippians 4:19 says, *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”* And that includes the salvation of our family! *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33).

The biggest “IF” that stands in the way of most people is a complete commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. “Well, IF I could just get my life straightened out, or IF I could get a better job, or IF my husband would just get saved, or IF my children would just get straightened out, then I could really serve the Lord!” The

big “IF” in this case is the doubt and unbelief that the devil gives us.

The exciting and scriptural way to be victorious in all these things is to really love Jesus and let the lesser things come second to Him in your life.

The thing that is so exciting about listening to God is that God’s promises are all good. Everything that God promises you, He will give you. There has not failed one word of all of His good promises, and He says, *“I will even hasten my word to perform it in your life,”* (Jeremiah 1:12, paraphrased). We need to trade all the big “IF’s” in our lives for the “IF” of God! *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. IF anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”* (Revelation 3:20).

It’s sure a lot more fun serving God than serving the devil.