

# LITTLE WORDS

## THAT MEAN A LOT

Too often when reading the Bible we get hung-up on the larger, more difficult to understand words -- words that really trouble us -- and are tempted to give-up because we feel some inadequacy in our knowledge -- DON'T GIVE UP!

Rather, watch for, and appreciate, the smaller words that are repeated over and over again which carry a lot of weight -- for instance --

How about the little 2-letter word -- IF --

*"Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit -- IF indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now IF anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And IF Christ is in you the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But IF the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you"* (Romans 8:9-11). Here our entire future depends on the IF of your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"IF any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally, and without reproach, and it will be given him"* (James 1:5). This tells us that we can receive wisdom from God to meet all our inadequacies.

*"IF anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation -- old things have passed away -- behold all things have become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17), this is the direct result of being Born Again by receiving forgiveness and Salvation from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I do believe that my early years in the Printing Industry gave me a respect for the "Little Words" and the value of counting the units of each letter. Let me explain -- using hand type (pieces of lead from which to print). The letter i and the letter f in most fonts were 2 units each -- thereby making our word "if" a total of 4 units -- the same as the letters e, o, s, and n -- so we find a complete word (if) with the same unit value as many of the other single letters.

Then we come to familiar 3-letter words, like ALL --

*"Jesus said, You shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind"* (Matthew 22:37). That little 3-letter word ALL is very important in our relationship with the God of the Universe. God gave His ALL in sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross for our sins -- and we must give our ALL to Him in appreciation.

It is used again in a very important way – *“ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable”* (Timothy 3:16) -- very important to realize that we can fully trust the Bible for every matter in this life, and the next.

*“For ALL have sinned and come short of the Glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). The Apostle Paul tells us – *“There is none righteous, no, not one . . . there is none who does good, no, not one”* (Romans 3:10.12).

*“God is able to make ALL Grace abound toward you, ALWAYS having ALL sufficiency in ALL things, that you may have an ABUNDANCE for EVERY good work”* (2 Corinthians 9:8). Notice the emphasis on the ALL inclusiveness in this verse. God is the authority over everything and can give us the abundance of His Love.

Another very simple, but profound 3-letter word (already used in Romans 8:11 above) – the word BUT – *“The wages of sin is death, BUT the Gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). Very simply -- sin leads to death – BUT the alternative is Life through Jesus Christ.

In the words of John the Baptist, *“He must increase, BUT I must decrease”* (John 3:30). John says that he wants more and more of the prominence of God in his life – and is willing to give more and more of himself in exchange.

And again, *“He who believes in the Son has Everlasting Life – and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, BUT the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36). This shows the very evident result of turning your back on the gracious offer of God. Allow me to point out that there is real and terrible wrath from God to any who will turn their back on Him – just check out the story of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:24,25.

*“Be anxious for nothing, BUT in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”* (Philippians 4:6), a real solution for worry – turn all your problems over to God and watch Him provide.

So we conclude that these simple 2 and 3 letter words have a profound impact on the understanding of the Scriptures – and the application of God’s Great Love poured out on us in our every-day lives – and our Eternal future.

Enjoy the reading of God’s Word – the Holy Bible and seriously consider the warnings as well as the lasting benefits of walking in close company with the God of the Universe, the fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ, and the ever present guidance of the Holy Spirit. REMEMBER -- GOD LOVES YOU!

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