

## The “If” Button

Tuesday night I made the mistake of watching the election results. Certainly, I watched with anticipation of a victory, but through the course of the evening and on into hours past midnight it was apparent no decision would be made as to a victor. Tragically, and much expected, the deceptions, lies and manipulations seemed to take over the focus of the commentaries.

Through the course of the evening, the Fox News commentator, Bill Hemmer, kept going to a total board and updated results as they came in. He had a variety of options on the display board and one I found most interesting was the “if” button. He could manipulate the winner in individual states to satisfy a hypothetical outcome for either candidate. “If Trump takes these two states, he is on track to 270 electoral votes and a second term.” He equally gave Biden the same hypotheticals that would put him on the path to 270. For a moment my despair was abated with a nudge from above. A feeling of peace came over me as I could hear the Lord whisper, “you’re already on a path.” Whatever the outcome may be, it is the will of God. We will get what we deserve as a nation (**Psa.28:4, Rom. 13:1, Jude 1:4**). As scary as that may be to some, it solidifies our faith in God, that He is actively moving in His creation. He is testing his chosen for their faith to endure to the end (**Matt.10:22**). With this in mind, I went to bed with a feeling of peace. It was certainly an evening and time that would have been better spent in the Word of God.

I know I have used the word “if” numerous times in our conversations, usually in the context of “if my grandmother had wheels, she’d be a wagon.” As sinical as that may be, we sometimes put too much emphasis and attention on outcomes that takes our focus off of truly important matters.

The definition of “if”, according to the Oxford Dictionary is:

## CONJUNCTION

1. (introducing a conditional clause) on the condition or supposition that; in the event that.

"if you have a complaint, write to the director" ·

*synonyms:*

on condition that · provided (that) · providing (that) · presuming (that) ·

2. despite the possibility that; no matter whether.

"if it takes me seven years, I shall do it"

3. (often used in indirect questions) whether.

"he asked if we would like some coffee" ·

*synonyms:*

whether · whether or not

4. expressing a polite request.

"if you wouldn't mind giving him a message?" ·

## NOUN

1. a condition or supposition.

According to [philosophy-religion.blurtit.com](http://philosophy-religion.blurtit.com), "if" appears in the Bible **1521 times**. 1029 times in the Old Testament and 492 times in the New Testament. Aside from the many uses as a conjunction; it seems that God used “if” more as noun as a condition. “And the Lord said, **IF** I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.”- **Gen.18:26**. (plus 1029 more time just in the Old Testament!) I’ll focus more on the “conditional” uses, the “ifs” that equate to obedience, consequences, and promises of God.

Now I'm not Bill Hemmer, but what "if" we as a nation were to "humble ourselves, and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."-2 Chron.7:14 Perhaps we would not be presently in such dire straits as a nation.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"- **Psa.11:3**. It is used in the conditional sense throughout scripture. "My son, **if** thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee, So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding, Yea **if** thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding, **If** thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."- **Prov.2:1-5**. We do, God acts. We act, God does.

"**If** ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."-**Isa.1:19**. God presents His desire and the condition and clearly lets us know what the outcome will be. There is no speculation, no need for polling or campaign contributions. We can stand on His word as the ultimate truth. There is reward for willing obedience and most certainly there is punishment for the opposite. "But **if** they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and **destroy that nation**, saith the Lord."-**Jer.12:17**.

(**Jer.18:10, 22:5, Ezek.33:9, Rom.11:21, 1 Cor.3:17,**) We are definitely reaping a harvest of disobedience in this nation, abortions, gay marriages, gay pastors! We have profaned and diluted the word of God to make it fit our agendas and lifestyles.

God's promises are eternally rewarding. "Verily, verily I say unto you, **If** a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."- **John 8:51. (John 12:26, 14:3, 14:15, 15:14, Rom.5:10, 6:8, Gal. 3:29, 1 Thes. 3:8, 2 Tim. 2:11, 1 John 2:3,**

One thing is for certain, as God's called and chosen, we need not be concerned with political parties, campaigns or recounts. Obedience to God's way of life, keeping His Commandments and Holy Days are sufficient for a winning outcome. "For this reason, brethren, be even more diligent to make your *election* sure; because if you are doing these things, you will never fall at any time."- **2 Pet. 1:10 (AFV). (1 Thes. 1:4).**

As of this writing, the election outcome is still undecided, at least legally for now. We have seen leads dwindle in apparent unlawful processes and be readily accepted. The evil in our nation has gone without consequence for so long, lies are the norm, cheating is expected and the moral compass has a rusted bent needle, not surprising (**Isa. 5:20**). If the outcome is one of a positive nature, we will have been given a stay of execution by Our Creator. If not, maybe Our Lord is coming soon?

The only "if" we really need to be concerned with is the "if" the sky cracked and the trumpet sounded right now, are we ready to stand before the Lord? *If* you are not ready, get to work. It could happen at any time. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only."- **Matt. 24:36**

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