

FAITH vs. The IF, The BUT, The HOW

Lord's Flock Praise & Worship Topic
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The words IF and BUT are conditional words and using them in our thinking can act as barriers to our faith and our path to success. They affected the lives of major characters in the Bible. Similarly, they affect our lives today as well. Thus, we should fight the negative effects of these words in our minds. Rather, let us trust God in everything we do and wholeheartedly obey all His commands.



1. The IF

1.1 What IF . . . ?

- What if Adam and Eve did not sin? Our lives on earth would have been perfect because God created everything perfect (Gen. 1-3).
- Moses said "What if" many times to God when asked to talk to the pharaoh to free the Israelites from slavery (Exo. 3:7-11).

1.2 IF only ...

- I have been lucky in love
- I listened to my parents
- I was serious about my studies
- I could have gotten a better job, things would have been better

1.3 What are the effects of IF in our lives?

It is physically and spiritually unhealthy. It is paralyzing because fear produces stress and stress has a bad effect on our health. Moreover, fear is the opposite of trust. It distracts us from God because of doubt. It is an obstacle to our spiritual growth and our relationship with God.

2. The BUT

The word "BUT" occurred 3,800 times in the Bible. It has a profound effect on our spiritual condition and relationship with God. It also indicates the impossibility of anything other than what is being stated.

- 2.1 The angel ordered Lot and his family to go forward and not look back; but Lot's wife disobeyed and became a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26).
- 2.2 Moses said: "BUT who am I that I should go to the pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"
- 2.3 BUT ...
 - I can't; I am too young or too old.
 - I don't have any education.
 - I don't have anything to offer.
 - I would like to obey BUT...

3. The HOW

How should we fight the IFs and the BUTs in our lives?

- 3.1 We should fully obey all God's commands and claim His promises of blessings in the Scriptures (Deut. 28; Mal. 3:10; Phil. 4:13 and 4:19).
- 3.2 We should confess what we believe in (Mt. 8:8, 9:29, 21:21; Ro. 8:28, 10:10; Prov. 18:21; Jn. 1:12; 1 Cor. 4:7; Heb. 11:6).

Conclusion:

Life is short. Anything can happen; and it usually does, so there is no point in thinking about all the IFs, and the BUTs in our life. Strive to be positive and obedient to God's will without reservations. Indeed, blessings will come upon us and overtake us (Deut. 28:1-14).

Reflection:

1. How is your relationship with the Lord? How strong is your faith?
2. How often do obey the Lord's commands without IFs and BUTs?

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