

"IF"

Key Areas for Removing Doubt from our Lives

I had a boss who used to say things like, "If elephants had wings they would fly." "If worms had machine guns, birds wouldn't mess with them." You probably already know the one about frogs. He didn't like the "what if" scenario. Consequently, he was highly successful in his field of expertise.

In reality, the word "if" can become the expression of doubt. However, it can also create a whole new world of possibilities if we refuse to doubt. Yet in spiritual things the word "if" is generally a sign of doubt. As people of faith in God we have no real reason to doubt. God has promised to be with us and we have nothing to doubt about. We can be confident in this (Heb. 13:5-6).

Someone has said, "if is the badge of doubt". I want to wear the badge of faith. I believe you want the same thing. Today let's look at four powerful areas where God has given us reason to believe Him and not to doubt.

1. Removing Doubt about God's Love.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 Jn. 4:11, NKJ). This wonderful scripture encourages us to not doubt God's love for us and shows us that we should love one another. God's love for us is so great He gave His life for us (1 Jn. 3:16, 1 Jn. 4:9, Jn. 15:13). He loved us this much before we ever started living respectable lives (Rom. 5:9). We have no fear of disappointment in the future because He has poured this love into our hearts by His Spirit (Rom. 5:5). His love drives away all of our fears (1 Jn. 4:18). Consequently, His word to us is, *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God"* (1 Jn. 4:7). So, today let us not doubt His amazing love. Let's express it to others in our lives.

2. Removing Doubt about the Power of Faith in God.

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matt. 17:20, NIV). This powerful scripture teaches us to not doubt the faith God has given us to use in this life. God will keep His word to us even if He has to remove a mountain. When He said he would forgive our sins, He meant it. When He said he would keep you and me in the palm of His hand, He'll do it. When He said He was going to prepare a place for us, He went to heaven to do it. And, when

He gives you a promise to stand on, He will give you the assurance to believe in faith, and He will bring it to pass (Matt. 4:4, Rom. 10:17, Heb 11:1). Thank God! He will move heaven to keep His word to us. So, today let us not doubt but, *"Have faith in God"* (Mark 11:22).

3. Removing Doubt about Perfection.

"Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me'" (Matt. 19:21, NIV). This challenging scripture encourages us to not doubt God's work of perfection in our lives. No matter how far we go with God, He will always challenge us to go on further with Him. We cannot put everything else before your relationship with God. He will not permit it (1 Jn. 2:15-17). This scripture is about motives. What is the driving force of your and my commitment to follow Christ? Once we have laid the proper foundation of love and faith we must move on to what God challenges us to do for Him (Heb. 6:1-3). Riches were the challenge of the rich young ruler. He could not accomplish his purpose on earth because he was concerned about his wealth. What is your challenge? Rest assured, if you are following Jesus He will not let you become complacent. We must be ever growing in our walk with God and our fellow man. So, today, let us take away doubt about perfection by continually rising up to God's new challenges in our lives (Matt. 5:48).

4. Removing Doubt about Divine Providence.

"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!" (Luke 12:28, NIV). This comforting scripture helps us to remove the doubt of divine providence. Our lives are not left to chance. God has a purpose for each of us. One day while looking out my window and watching the children rowing around in the grass, I realized that God had carpeted the world with grass for the children to play on. He's got every detail of life covered. God is going to take care of you and me too. None of us are too much for God to handle. He has it all under control. He knows everything about us and He has a plan for every one of our lives. So, today let us do away with any doubt concerning our destiny by committing our lives to Him and letting His peace fill up our hearts (Phil. 4:6-7, 1 Pet. 5:7).

Let's remove the "if" of doubt from our lives by trusting our loving, faithful, challenging, and all caring God. Amen.