

THE BIG "IF" #3

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"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:12-13 NIV

ALIVE = _____.

ACTIVE = _____.

PENETRATES = _____.

JUDGES = _____.

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11 NIV

THE BIG IF... JESUS ON REMAINING IN HIM

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."
John 15:5-8 NIV

REMAINING MEANS _____.

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

"Do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few." Ecclesiastes 5:2 NIV

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:5-6 NIV

REMAINING MEANS _____.

"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..."

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart." Luke 6:43-45 NIV

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

REMAINING MEANS _____.

"...apart from me you can do nothing."

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its

leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:7-9 NIV

REMAINING MEANS _____.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you ask whatever you wish"

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me." John 17:6-8 NIV

REMAINING MEANS _____.

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life." Philippians 2:14-16 NIV

THE BATTLE TO REMAIN

"In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress." Psalm 71:1-3 NIV

"Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me." Psalm 63:7-8 NIV

FOR DISCUSSION

WHICH OF THESE ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD AND HIS WORD HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED? WHAT HAPPENS? (PICK ONE)

GOD HAS MET ME

GOD HAS MINISTERED TO ME

GOD CONFRONTED ME

GOD CONVICTED ME

DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF FORGETTING "WHO IS WHO" IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? DESCRIBE.

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REFLECT GOD'S PRESENCE WITH OTHERS?

WHICH ASPECT OF "REMAINING" HAS IMPACTED YOUR LIFE THE MOST? WHY?

WHY IS MAKING GOD KNOWN SO IMPORTANT TO HIM?