

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## FIVE “IF’S” OF FIRST JOHN ONE

*John Edwards*

The apostle John used the word “if” five times in 1 John 1 to teach us some lessons. “If” is a conditional term. Let’s look at five great “if’s” from 1 John 1:

**1 JOHN 1:6.** *“IF we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”* It’s impossible to walk in darkness and have fellowship with God for, *“God is light, and in him is no darkness at all”* (1 Jn. 1:5).

**1 JOHN 1:7.** *“But IF we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* Fellowship and cleansing from sin are dependent upon our walking in the light. Are you in the light?

**1 JOHN 1:8.** *“IF we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”* Did you know you’re deceiving yourself? If you say you have no sin, you are! The reason this is so is *“the scripture hath concluded all under sin”* (Gal. 3:22).

**1 JOHN 1:9.** *“IF we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all*

*unrighteousness.”* A child of God’s forgiveness of sins is based upon his confessing his sins. No confession, no forgiveness!

**1 JOHN 1:10.** *“IF we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* We make God a liar when we say we have not sinned for He says we have sinned (Rom. 3:23).

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## THE KEY TO CHURCH GROWTH

*J. Wiley Adams*

**CONVERTED MEMBERSHIP.** This writer is persuaded that the trend to strengthen the brethren and to clean out the impenitent from our midst is a healthy sign and needs to be continued. What good is it to baptize people who are not truly converted? How can the “unconverted” truly hope to convert anyone else?

**MORE STUDY.** Members of the church, like the world itself, have too many “irons in the fire.” They have no time to study the Bible. Teachers prepare their lessons and often present the material to a class that is obviously totally unfamiliar with the lesson. How often do we see a dumb-founded look go over the face

of someone who is asked the simplest of Bible questions? It is discouraging to teachers.

**MORE PRAYER.** As busy as some obviously are in worldly affairs one would be naive to suppose that prayer occupies a prominent place in their lives. The current adage that “the family that prays together stays together” has a great deal of food for us to think about and may well be transferred in a figure to “a growing church is a praying church.”

**FALSE CONCEPTS OF GROWTH.** Although certain facilities and equipment are needful and useful in the work of the local church, let us not confuse building projects with spiritual growth. Honorable preachers of the word send out appeals for financial assistance as they preach the unsearchable riches of Christ in areas at home and abroad where the cause of Christ is either weak or nonexistent. Brethren, when we are able to generate more enthusiasm in building projects, new driveways, asphalt parking lots, and a few buckets of paint than we can in a stack of appeals for help from worthy men who have devoted their lives to preaching the gospel of Christ, I am willing to say it is a sorry situation wherever it may exist. *“He that hath an ear, let him hear.”*

**MORE GIVING.** We usually do about what we want to do. The pattern in 1 Corinthians 16:2 in giving is weekly. A failure to recognize this causes the collection to go up and down. Add to this the fact that some members feel no need to leave their weekly collection with the local church when they are away. Either they put it in somewhere else and thus neglect their local responsibility toward the work program or they “rob” God that week or weeks, as the case may be. It is a shame!

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## WHAT THE TONGUE IS LIKE

*John Edwards*

The Scriptures compare the tongue to many things. A study of What The Tongue Is Like teaches us to be careful how we use the tongue.

**A SHARP RAZOR.** The Psalmist penned, “*Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully*” (Ps. 52:2). If you think you don’t have to exercise extreme

caution in what you say, pick up a sharp razor, handle it carelessly and see what happens!

**A SHARP SWORD.** Psalm 57:4 records, “*My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.*” The tongue of the gossip is like a sharp sword. “*The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly*” (Prov. 18:8). Did you know that what you say can be piercing someone with a sword?

**BITS IN THE HORSES’ MOUTHS.** James said, “*Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body*” (Jas. 3:3). Just as a horse is turned about by a little bit, the tongue is capable of exerting mammoth power!

**A VERY SMALL HELM.** James wrote, “*Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm,*

*whithersoever the governor listeth*” (Jas. 3:4). Ever notice how a mighty ship is maneuvered by a very small helm? As a very small helm, the tongue has tremendous force!

**FIRE.** The Holy Spirit revealed, “*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell*” (Jas. 3:6). Like fire, the tongue is capable of engendering immense destruction. Just one angry word can spark a devastating blaze!

**DEADLY POISON.** It is written, “*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*” (Jas. 3:8). We have special containers for poison marked with warning labels. As deadly poison, we must learn to “handle with care” the tongue!

## SOMEONE WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

We are looking for someone with an honest and good heart who would like to study the Bible.

**IS IT YOU?**

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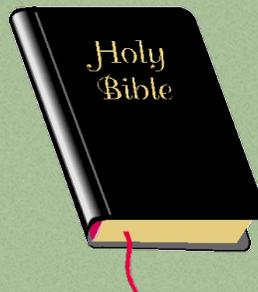
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***Come be with us!***



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

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