

The “If” Study

The apostles Paul and Barnabas went out of there way; even to the point of back tracking to places where they were almost killed, just to strengthen the believers. I pray this study helps to do the same for you. - Richard Boll

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Act 14:22 NLT - [22] where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to **continue in the faith**, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.

10 Things to Continue In: (from page 244 of the Drake Annotated Reference Bible)

1. **Doing Good - Rom 2:7 NLT - [7]** He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.
 1. Do you understand that your good behavior is tied to your eternal life?
 2. We seek after a lot of things in this life. Are you seeking what God offers, glory and honor and immortality?
2. **Following The Lord - 1Sa 12:14 NLT - [14]** "Now **if** you fear and worship the LORD and listen to his voice, and **if** you do not rebel against the LORD's commands, then both you and your king will show that you recognize the LORD as your God.
 1. Do fear the Lord? Do you worship the Lord? Do you listen to His voice?
 2. Are you rebelling against the Lord's commands?
 3. Does your life show that you recognize the LORD as God?
3. **The Word of God - John 8:31 NLT - [31]** Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples **if** you remain faithful to my teachings.
 1. What takes precedence in your life? Jesus teachings or something else? Facebook, Instagram, TikTok,....?
 2. Remaining is having the same conviction that you had at first.
 3. Based on your remaining faithful, are you truly Jesus' disciple?
4. **Christ's Love - John 15:9 NLT - [9]** "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **1 Timothy 2:15 NLT - [15]** But women will be saved through childbearing, assuming they continue to live in faith, love, holiness, and modesty.
 1. You are love even as God loved Jesus.
 2. Are you remaining in Jesus's love?
5. **Grace of God - Act 13:43 NLT - [43]** Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them to continue to rely on the grace of God.
 1. Who are you following that is urging you to continue to rely on the grace of God?
 2. What do you rely on?

6. **The Faith** - **Acts 14:22** and **Col 1:23 NLT** - [23] But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.
 1. Must is not optional. Continuing and standing firm is the only way.
 2. You drift away when you do nothing to assure you stay put.
7. **God's Goodness** - **Rom 11:22 NLT** - [22] Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you **if** you continue to trust in his kindness. But **if** you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.
 1. What do you notice more, God's kindness or His severity?
 2. Do you trust in God's kindness always and in every situation?
 3. Don't ever stop trusting. The consequences are devastating.
8. **Prayer** - **Col 4:2 NLT** - [2] Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.
 1. Do you devote yourself to prayer with an alert mind?
 2. How thankful is your heart? Is it your devotion?
9. **Sound Doctrine** - **1Ti 4:16 NLT** - [16] Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you. **2Ti 3:14 NLT** - [14] But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.
 1. How close do you watch your life and your teaching?
 2. There are options than sand. How faithful to the truth are you?
10. **The Son and the Father** - **1Jo 2:24 NLT** - [24] So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. **If** you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.
 1. Remaining faithful is not optional. Where are you in your relationship with God, compared to your beginning?
 2. Your remaining faithful determines your fellowship with the Son and the Father.
 3. How faithful is your fellowship with other believers?

This study is not intended to condemn. But to help us evaluate the condition of our continuing in our faith. If it has reviled a need for repentance, one the best directions God gives is **Rev 2:5 NLT** - [5] Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. **If** you don't repent, I will come and remove your lamp stand from its place among the churches.