

“**IF**”

by Rudyard Kipling
(Annotations by Rodolfo O Reyes '78)



If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs
and blaming it on you;

Self-control
Peace

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
but make allowances for their doubting too;

Trust, confidence
Humility

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting;

Patience

Or being lied about
don't deal in lies;

Honesty
Integrity

Or being hated
don't give way to hating;

Love, Mercy
Forgiveness

And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise.

Humility

If you can dream
and not make dreams your master;

Vision/Planning
Action

If you can think
and not make thoughts your aim;

Vision/Planning
Action

If you can meet with triumph and disaster
and treat those two impostors just the same;

Faith
Trust

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
twisted by knaves
to make a trap for fools;

Steadfastness
Self-control
Peace of mind

Or watch the things you gave your life to broken
and stoop and pick them up
with worn out tools.

Faith
Perseverance
Resilience

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
and risk them
on one turn of pitch and toss;

Faith
Trust
Boldness

And lose, and start again at your beginnings,
and never breath a word about your loss;

Perseverance
Hard work

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
to serve your turn long after they are gone;

Steadfastness
Perseverance

And so hold on when there is nothing in you,
except the will which says to them, "Hold on!"

Steadfastness
Perseverance

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
or walk with kings
nor lose the common touch;

Love, Humility
Flexibility
Mercy

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you but none too much;

Faith
Confidence

If you can fill the unforgiving minute
with sixty seconds' worth of distance run;

Wisdom
Stewardship

Then yours is the earth and everything that's in it,
and which is more, you'll be a man, my son!

Stewardship
Leadership
Success

Biblical underpinnings of "IF" (Compiled by Rodolfo O. Reyes '78)

Love (strong affection, desire or devotion)
"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39)

Peace (state of calm; freedom from strife or discord; harmony in personal relationship)
"A heart of peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones" (Proverbs 14:30)

Faith (reliance; loyalty; complete trust in God or someone else)
"... 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"
(Matthew 17:20-21)

Forgiveness/Mercy (forgiving; compassionate)
"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36)

Patience (endurance; hopeful forbearance)
"A patient man has great understanding, but a quick tempered man displays folly"
(Proverbs 14:29)

Humility (the state of being humble; lack of pride)

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom”
(Proverbs 11:2)

Honesty (displaying truthfulness; not deceptive or fraudulent)

“Do not use dishonest standards . . . Use honest scales and honest weights . . .”
(Leviticus 19:35-36)

Integrity (honesty, w/o compromise or corruption)

“The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”
(Proverbs 10:9)

Trust (to place one’s confidence in; to hope)

“When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust, I will not be afraid. What can mortal men do to me?” (Psalm 56:3-4)

Self-Control (restraint exercised over one’s impulses, desires or emotions; temperance)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22)

Perseverance (Patient endurance of hardship; persisting in a state or enterprise in spite of difficulties and discouragement)

“. . . But we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

Steadfastness (unchanging; dependable)

“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”
(Isaiah 26:3)

Vision/Planning (a scheme for making or doing something)

“Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up food in the summer.”
(Proverbs 30:25)

Action (the process of doing)

“. . . Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James 2:17)

CONCLUSION

Greatness

“. . . Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all; for even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43-44)

Success/Failure

“God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.” (Romans 2:6-8)