

Tough & Tender: A Study of 2 Peter & Jude

Week 8: God Is Able

Message Summary: In light of all of the opposition, all of our doubts, and all of our internal ugliness, how will we move forward with joy? Jude knows. “God is able.” God is able to keep us from falling away from Jesus. God is able to present us without fault by the blood of Jesus. When you are afraid, remember that God is able!

- ◆ Pastor Tim’s **tough**. Pastor Bill’s **tender**.

- ◆ The Frog and the Scorpion Revisited – Maybe scorpions don’t always **sting**.

- ◆ Do we always have to be so **tough**?
 - ❖ On **membership**?
 - ❖ On the **Lord’s Supper**?
 - ❖ On the **creed** as opposed to **deeds**?
 - ❖ On **gender** and human **sexuality**?
 - ❖ On **Scripture**?
 - ❖ On other **religions**?

- ◆ Jude knows it’s got to be both **tough** and **tender**.

- ◆ Now the tender exhortation:
“Dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life” (Jude 1:20-21).
 - ❖ **Build** your faith... (Gather, Group, Grow)
 - ❖ **Pray** in the Spirit... (Gather, Group, Grow)
 - ❖ **Keep** yourself in God’s love... (Gather, Group, Grow)
 - ❖ **Wait** for the mercy in Christ Jesus... (Gather, Group, Grow)

- ◆ Now the tender exhortation:
“Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh” (Jude 1:22-23).
 - ❖ **Be merciful** to those who doubt (Give and Go)
 - ❖ **Save** others from hell (Give and Go)
 - ❖ **Show** mercy mixed with fear (Give and Go)

- ◆ Now the tender confidence:
“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy” (Jude 1:24)
 - ❖ To him who is **able**.

- ◆ And so the tough and tender praise:
“To him be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen” (Jude 1:25).

Planting Jesus Roots

GATHER — What’s the toughest thing you’ve ever encountered about coming to our church at 922? Though difficult, explain how we can give thanks for that.

GROUP — What tough things about joining a Bible study group keep us from joining one? Explain how we’re better for it when we get over that struggle.

GROW — Why is being in the Word of God at home a tough habit to create and keep? Again, how is it a blessing when we do?

GIVE — Giving is tough, especially sacrificially. According to Jude, why is it essential that we find a way?

GO — Going is one of the more difficult things we may ever do. Again, why is this a blessing when we go?

Homework: Esther 1