

# GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST: Jude 20-25

## INTRODUCTION

**Q. Why does perseverance matter?**

**A1. Matthew 10:21-22** "Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

**A2. Hebrews 10:36** "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

**Q. But how are we to continue to grow and how are we to persevere to the end?**

**A.** That is what God teaches us through Jude in our text.

**BIG IDEA:** The means, certainty, and chief end of your growth and perseverance in Christ is diligent effort, God's mercy, and God's glory.

**This sermon is a call for perseverance, just like the call in Revelation 14:12.**

"Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus."

## OUTLINE.

- I. THE MEANS OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (vv. 20-21).
- II. THE MEANS OF YOUR FELLOW SAINTS' GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (vv. 22-23).
- III. THE CERTAINTY OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (v. 24).
- IV. THE CHIEF END OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (v. 25).

## I. THE MEANS OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (vv. 20-21).

**I) If you would grow and persevere in Christ, you have to build yourself up in the faith (v. 20a).**

**Jude 20a** "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith"

- **Q. Is this objective or subjective? A. Objective** (Jude 3).
- **Q. How do I build myself up in my most holy faith?**  
**A.** Hear the Word in faith,

study the Word in faith,  
meditate on the Word in faith,  
teach the word in faith,  
catechize according to the Word in faith,  
converse about the Word in faith,  
obey the Word in faith,  
take the Lord's Supper in faith,  
worship the Lord. privately in faith,  
worship the Lord with your household in faith, and  
worship the Lord with your church in faith.

**Faith must be mingled with the Word in your hearts.**

**II) If you would grow and persevere in Christ, you have to pray (v. 20b).**

**Jude 20b** "and praying in the Holy Spirit,"

- **John Bunyan:** "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan."
  - **Q. How should you and I pray?**
    - A. "9a** Pray then like this"—**Jesus says to His disciples in Matthew 6:9-13**—"9b Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
  - **Q. When should you pray?**
    - A.** Pray in private. Pray with your family. Pray in meetings. Pray in the assembly of the saints. Pray in public.
      - **Thomas Brooks:** "A family without prayer is like a house without a roof, open and exposed to all the storms of heaven."

WARNING - If you do not pray, what then will happen to your growth and perseverance in Christ?

**III) If you would grow and persevere in Christ, you have to keep yourself in the love of God (v. 21a).**

**Jude 21a** "keep yourselves in the love of God,"

- **Q. What is meant here?**
  - A1. He might mean,**
    - "(i) Keep yourself knowing and thinking on the fact that you are loved by God the Father who elected you;

- (ii) Keep yourself knowing and thinking on the fact that you are loved by God the Son who purchased you; and
- (iii) Keep yourself knowing and thinking on the fact that you are loved by God the Holy Spirit who regenerated and is sanctifying you."
- **A2. Or he might mean what Christ says in John 15:9-11:** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
- *NOTICE THAT THIS IS YOURSELVES, NOT JUST YOURSELF. GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IS A GROUP EFFORT. YOU NEED THE SAINTS AND THE SAINTS NEED YOU.*

**IV) If you would grow and persevere in Christ, you have to eagerly and confidently wait for Christ's merciful second coming (v. 21b).**

**Jude 21b** "waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

- To take the spiritual eyes of your heart and the physical eyes of your head off of earthly things and set them on Christ is to take your eyes off the worthless dunghill and set them on the wonderful Deity. What are you waiting for? Turn your eyes from the worlds rubbish to God's Redeemer! *The same Christ who was wounded to redeem you from sin's penalty and power will one day return to bandage up your sin-wounds once and for all—He will come again and redeem you from sin's presence!*

ALL THIS HAS TO BE DONE ULTIMATELY FOR GODS GLORY.

EXAMINE YOURSELF

**II. THE MEANS OF YOUR FELLOW SAINTS' GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (vv. 22-23).**

**I) If you would help your brothers grow and persevere in Christ, you must have mercy on those who doubt (v. 22).**

**Jude 22** "And have mercy on those who doubt;"

**II) If you would help your brothers grow and persevere in Christ, you have to snatch those walking toward the fire (v. 23a).**

**Jude 23a** "save others by snatching them out of the fire;"

**III) If you would help your brothers grow and persevere in Christ, you must fear God and hate sin (v. 23b).**

**Jude 23b** "to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh."

### EXAMINE YOURSELF

## III. THE CERTAINTY OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (v. 24).

**I) God guarantees that His saints will grow and persevere in Christ because He will keep them from stumbling (v. 24a).**

**Jude 24a** "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling"

- He is not only able, but also willing.

**II) God guarantees that His saints will grow and persevere in Christ because He will present them blameless before Him (v. 24b).**

**Jude 24b** "and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,"

### COMFORT YOURSELF

## IV. THE CHIEF END OF YOUR GROWTH AND PERSEVERANCE IN CHRIST (v. 25).

**I) God by His grace grows and preserves His saints ultimately so that they would ascribe all glory, majesty, dominion, and authority to Him (v. 25).**

**Jude 25** "to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

"Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus." (**Revelation 14:12**)

**Q.** Do you fear that you will not persevere to the end?

**A.** Heaven and earth could sooner pass away than for God to let a saint finally fall away. He has spoken. He will do it.

**PRESS ON IN HOPE!**

**Jude 20-25**

[20] But you, <sup>'agapētos</sup> beloved, <sup>Col 2:7</sup> building yourselves up in your most holy <sup>"pistis"</sup> faith

and <sup>prep</sup> praying in the Holy Spirit, [21] keep yourselves <sup>"agapē"</sup> in the love of God,

waiting for the mercy of our Lord <sup>"Kyrios"</sup> Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. <sup>"zoe"</sup>

*W/ expectation + confidence*  
*ref. apod. will to/care for the miserable*  
*\*Like Simeon in Luke 2:25\**

*at variance w/ oneself*  
*Hesitate*  
*stagger/waver*

*adj. -*  
*everlasting*  
*unceasing*  
*spiritual life*

[22] And have mercy on those who doubt;

*imperative*  
*to help the afflicted*  
*"Blessed are the merciful" Mt. 5:7*

*imperative*  
*rescue*  
*deliver*

*seizing*  
*carrying off*  
*plucking/pulling*

*prep. Mt. 9:10-12*

[23] save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, <sup>"phobos"</sup> hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

*imperative*  
*rescue*  
*deliver*

*seizing*  
*carrying off*  
*plucking/pulling*

*prep. Mt. 9:10-12*

*detesting*

*tonic clothes*

*polluted*  
*spotted*  
*defiled*  
*James 3:5*

*prep. def.*

*"sark"*

[24] Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling

*conj. definite*

*powerful*  
*capable*

*guard*  
*protect*

*(plural)*

*adj. not stumbling*  
*Exempt from falling*  
*\*only time used in NT\**

and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

*conj. make you stand*  
*establish*  
*\*Covenant language\**

*adj. without blemish*  
*faultless*

*prep.*

*splendor*  
*brightness*  
*magnificence*

*exultation*  
*extreme happiness*  
*gladness*

[25] to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

*adjective*

*deliverer*

*prep.*

*LK 1:14 @ John*  
*LK 1:44 John in the womb @ Jesus*

be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,

*greatness*  
*beauty*  
*impressiveness*

*power*  
*strength*  
*supremacy*

*power of choice*  
*sovereignty*  
*jurisdiction*

*right/mastery*  
*privilege*

before all time and now and forever. Amen.

*prep.*

*adv. ages*  
*\*eternality\**

*conj.*

*adverb*

*conj.*

*adjective*

*Truly.*