

Sound The Alarm

Jude 17-25

- Having identified the apostates in very clear language, giving his readers guidelines on how to avoid their teaching errors and stay clear of their destructive ways. Jude is now going to close his letter by encouraging us that we not only should identify apostacy and avoid it, but also to remember that we already have the victory over apostacy, through the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and in studying and applying The written Word of God to our lives.

V17-25

- **V17-19** Jude now turns away from what the false teachers are doing and he focuses on what the believer should do in order to protect themselves from falling victim to these errors. He begins with “**remembering**” in order to remember something it implies that you know it, Satan’s number one attack toward the believer is to get us to question The Word of God, for once we begin to question God’s Word we become more vulnerable to his other schemes.
- So while Paul tells us in **2 Cor 2:11** “not to be ignorant of Satan’s devices or schemes” Jude says to remember the words spoken by the Apostles concerning those who’s goal is confusion and drama and not peace and truth. These individual will do three things > 1st mockers will arise- they will make fun of the return of Jesus laughing at the thought of it, and speak evil of those who are not going down the same path of destruction they travel on.
- **2nd they will be people who live by the flesh- “sensual”** this describes the person who lives by what they can feel through physical senses, being carnal and insensitive to the Holy Spirit, and you know this by the third point. **3rd they cause division-** because they do not live by the Spirit because they don’t have the Spirit drama and confusion follows them everywhere. Instead of deferring to keeping the peace they demand to have their way, even if it hurts others or bring about separations or as scripture calls it schisms within the body.
- Jude wanted his readers to remember how the Apostles told them that these things would happen, and how they should respond, so it shouldn’t come as such a surprise. God does the same for you and I, if we stay in the Word it protects us from being either surprised or ignorant of the attacks and schemes of the enemy of our souls, in fact we should expect it.
- **V20-21** Jude gives us the strategy to use when facing these dangers within the church, telling us not to attack the people who are in fact trying to hurt us, but instead to focus our efforts in, and on our walk with God, for in doing this, it will not only strengthen you, but also give you the ability to help others that are being affected negatively by these people.

- The apostates are in the business of “**tearing down**”, that’s their goal, to injure, hurt, shake people’s faith and foundation, but for the true believer our business is “**building up**” but that first starts with your own faith, you cannot help others and the local assembly if your own spiritual life is faltering. In this verse we see something that’s very important to keep in mind and that is that “**we are responsible for our own spiritual growth**”.
- Notice at the beginning of **V20** it says “**but you beloved**” there are things that I must do if I am going to continue to grow in my Christian walk, its not going to happen just because I want it to, there are things I must be diligent to do for it to happen, also this means we can’t expect others to make us grow, yea its great if your spouse, friend, sibling is studying the Word, doing devotions, listening to bible studies, but at some point for you to grow, that must become your testimony as well amen!
- Central to building up our faith is “**praying in the Holy Spirit**” let me tell you right now this is not about speaking in tongues, you have three whole chapters in first Corinthians that go over that in depth. What Jude is saying is that instead of praying by our own needs, with our own intellect, for our own desires and wants, you are being directed by God’s Spirit, to do His will, and for His glory, therefore my prayers are Christ centered and not me centered > **Rom 8:26**- it doesn’t always look the same but the goal is always “**your will be done**”.
- **V21** now when I am in the Word of God and the Word of God is in me, when I pray it’s going to be in accordance to His Word, to accomplish His will, as I only want to please Him and not myself, that is how you “Keep or guard ourselves in the love of God”. What do you mean? We cannot make God love us anymore or any less than He already does, as He loves us perfectly, as God loves for us never changes, what does change is how we see His love.
- When I am in disobedience the enemy, and flesh begins to tell me God no longer loves me as much, as I have so disappointed Him, but that simply is not true, in fact God tells us when we have blown it that we can restore perfect fellowship with Him if we do what? **1Jn 1:9**- sometimes even after we do that we still don’t feel fully forgiven do we, but that is not because the verse failed us, or God didn’t hear us, its all because of how we feel.
- Which is why Jude says “**keep or guard**” its not God or His love that changed its how we perceive it that does, all of a sudden we begin to believe the lie He doesn’t love us anymore or as much, to protect yourself from ever feeling like that is to build ourselves up in God’s Word and be praying In His Spirit, that will guard and keep us from listening to Satan’s lies. This allows me to keep the blessed hope of Jesus soon return alive in my heart as I continue to look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life!
- **V22-23** once I’ve dealt with myself I can now look to those around me, and to do this it takes discernment, because Jude puts those who have been wrongly influenced in two different categories, and therefore we are to handle them in different and distinct ways. **1st The Doubting**- the word means compassion, this is the group that is wavering, they are the unstable souls mentioned in **2 Pet 2:14**- where it says unstable souls have been enticed.

- These people have been converted but they are not grounded in the faith, our responsibility is to have mercy on them or show compassion to them, by seeking to lead them away from the influences of the apostates. This kind of ministry demands a great deal of love and patience, keeping in mind that immature believers are like little children who think they know right from wrong but when they hear no they only rebel and become more stubborn.
- **2nd The Burning**- these are the people who may have left the fellowship and are now part of a group that is tearing down the church, Jude says they need to be snatched out of the fire. Similarly in **Gen 19:16** the Angels had to grab Lot by the hand and pull him out of Sodom, but in doing this you have to be extremely careful because what has contaminated them can attach itself to you and injure you, therefore whatever you do it must be done carefully.
- **V24-25** Jude wanted his readers to end on a high note so he closes with a praise to remind us of God's care and of our destiny > Keep looking up because it's all for His glory > "**Now to Him**" as He is able to keep us from stumbling, and will present us faultless, in the presence of His glory in exceeding joy. All that we go through and experience down here will all be worth it when we are in Jesus presence, as it will be nothing but joy and peace > "**Who alone is wise, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion, and Power, both now and forever**", Amen!