

**Jude: Contending for The Faith
The Ingredients for Faithful Contending – Part 2
Jude 17-25**

ONE THING

To contend for the faith, you must know your enemy, keep your faith, and care for others.

Jude 3 (ESV) — Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

This verse is the theme of the entire letter...

“CONTEND”

The word used here for “CONTEND” literally means to AGONIZE EARNESTLY...

It means to fight... to EXPEND EFFORT for something that matters greatly!

“THE FAITH”

The Faith – refers to the things believed and handed down

The Faith is the body of beliefs held by the Church...

“ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS”

We began this short study with a truth statement for the entire letter...

Every believer stands upon the faithful before us, with the faithful beside us, and must contend for the faithful behind us!

There is a phrase in verse four that helps launch us into this next section...

Jude 4a (ESV) — For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation ...

Let’s now read our passage...

To contend for the faith, you must know your enemy, keep your faith, and care for others.

1. AWARENESS – REMEMBER the PREDICTIONS of the Word!

2. ATTENTIVENESS – REMAIN in the LOVE of God!

3. ALERTNESS – RESPOND in MERCY toward others!

Jude 22–23 (ESV) — And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

“have mercy” is in the IMPERATIVE

How many of us are grateful for God’s mercy He has shown to us!?!

Did we DESERVE His mercy? NO!

Did we NEED His mercy? YES!!!

The word translated “mercy” means...

Mercy: to show kindness or concern for someone in serious need

Ephesians 2:4 (ESV) — But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us

➤ ***The DOUBTING***

Jude 22 (ESV) — And have mercy on those who doubt...

To doubt means to think something may not be true or certain...

We have ALL been here at one time or another!

How do we detect doubt? ... In ourselves and others?

Doubt can be detected in HESITATION

Doubt can be detected in FALSE HUMILITY

Doubt can be detected in SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS

The problem is not a fear problem, but a faith problem!

Doubt, at it's core, is UNBELIEF!

Hebrews 3:12 (ESV) — Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Mark 11:22–23 (ESV) — And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

So how do we “have mercy”?

Build them back up!!!

Jude 20a (NLT) — But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith ...

Ephesians 4:11–14 (ESV) — 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 4:29 (ESV) — Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

➤ ***The DYING***

Jude 23a (ESV) — Save others by snatching them out of the fire ...

We were all once dead in sin...

Ephesians 2:1–2 (ESV) — 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

They've been blinded by the god of this world!

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (ESV) — 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

How do we show them mercy?

Jude says “snatching them

“to grab or seize by force, with the purpose of removing”

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV) — Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

➤ **The DRIFTING**

Jude 23b (ESV) — ... to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Hebrews 2:1 (ESV) — Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

What does the “drifter” tend to do?

They tend towards avoidance and neglect...

They begin neglect God's Word...

They begin to avoid God's People...

Galatians 6:1 (ESV) — Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

To contend for the faith, you must know your enemy, keep your faith, and care for others.

1. AWARENESS – REMEMBER the PREDICTIONS of the Word!

2. ATTENTIVENESS – REMAIN in the LOVE of God!

3. ALERTNESS – RESPOND in MERCY toward others!

4. ADORATION – REJOICE in the GLORY of God!

Jude 24–25 (ESV) — Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 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.

➤ **Glory in His GRACE!**

Jude 24a (ESV) — Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling...

What does it mean to “keep you from stumbling”?

It means not failing to keep the Law

How does the Lord keep us from stumbling?

Romans 7:15 (ESV) — For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Romans 7:21–25 (ESV) — So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

John 17:22 (NLT) — I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one.

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) — And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:12b–13 (ESV) — ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

➤ **Glory in His GOODNESS!**

Jude 24b (ESV) — ... and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy ...

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 (ESV) — 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

➤ **Glory in His GREATNESS!**

Jude 25 (ESV) — 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.

1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV) — To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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The Ingredients for Faithful Contending – Part 2
Jude 17-21

To contend for the faith, you must know your enemy, keep your faith, and care for others.

1. Awareness – Remember the Predictions of the Word!

2. Attentiveness – Remain in the Love of God!

**3. _____ – _____ in
_____ toward others!**

➤ **The _____**

➤ **The _____**

➤ **The _____**

**4. _____ – _____ in the
_____ of God!**

➤ **Glory in His _____!**

➤ **Glory in His _____!**

➤ **Glory in His _____!**