

***Jude: Contending for The Faith  
The Ingredients for Faithful Contending – Part 1  
Jude 17-21***

***ONE THING***

***To contend for the faith, you must KNOW your ENEMY, KEEP your FAITH, and CARE for OTHERS***

*The Key Verse in the Letter...*

*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”***

*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!***

*Jude 17–19 (ESV) — But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.*

*The word, “REMEMBER”, is in the imperative...*

*Paul's warning to the Ephesian Elders...*

*Acts 20:29–32 (ESV) — I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**Paul's warning to the Timothy...**

**1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV) — Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons**

**2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) — But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.**

**2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) — For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.**

**Peter's warning to the Church...**

**2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV) — But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.**

**2 Peter 3:3 (ESV) — Knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.**

**“Scoffers”...**

**“Scoffers” are those who make fun of others by mocking them**

**They consider themselves wise in their own eyes and those who believe “fairy tales” as ignorant and uninformed...**

**Jude concludes by letting us know how we can recognize them...**

**Jude 19 (ESV) — It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.**

**They are the “Tares sown among the wheat”**

**They have a “form of godliness, but deny the power”**

**They follow pagan rituals and doctrines of demons...**

**They CAUSE DIVISIONS... live WORLDLY LIFESTYLES... and do not know Jesus!**

**1. AWARENESS – REMEMBER the PREDICTIONS of the Word!**

**So, we have understood how to recognize our enemies...**

**Now Jude enters into our personal daily walk of faith...**

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

## **2. ATTENTIVENESS – REMAIN in the LOVE of God!**

*Jude 20–21 (ESV) — But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

*Here we finally have our “HOW TO” for personally readying ourselves ...*

*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.*

*In verses 20-21 we are given the ingredients for keeping our faith strong and vibrant during these deceptive and difficult days...*

*Jude 20–21 (ESV) — But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

*Here we have THREE PARTICIPLES built around ONE IMPERATIVE...*

*The IMPERATIVE command here is ...*

*“... keep yourselves in the love of God...”*

*The word, “KEEP” used here means, “to continue to hold in custody, to guard, to keep watch on”*

***It is possible to be in the family of God yet be out of fellowship with Him!***

*Jude is telling us “DON’T DO THIS!”*

*We will be unable to contend for the faith when we are out of fellowship with the love of God!*

*To stay in fellowship with the Lord we are told to actively DO three things...*

➤ ***ASSIMILATE your Faith!***

*“... building yourselves up in your most holy faith ...”*

*To assimilate means “to digest into your body, to understand in your mind, to become similar to another, to absorb”*

*To build yourself up means to increase the potential of your most holy faith!*

→ ***FEED ON GOD’S WORD!!!***

***Feeding on God’s Word means taking it in and then working it out!***

*Assimilating your faith is more than reading God’s Word...*

*It is also digesting it and living it out!*

*John 14:15 (ESV) — “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

**John 14:21–24 (ESV) — Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.**

***You will not be able to contend for the Faith once for all delivered to the saints if you are not strong in the Word!***

➤ **ACTIVATE the Spirit!**

**“... praying in the Holy Spirit ...”**

The word, “in” used here is the Greek word, “EN” which means “inside of”...

The focus here is dependence upon the Holy Spirit!

***I believe this includes...***

***Praying in tongues...***

**1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (ESV) — For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.**

***Surrendering to the Spirit’s guidance***

**Romans 12:1 (ESV) — 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.**

**Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

***Praying in the Scriptures...***

**Joshua 1:8 (ESV) — This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

**2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

**“man” used here is in the singular!**

***Putting on the Armor of God...***

**Ephesians 6:13–18 (ESV) — Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which**

***you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints***

***This is my prayer for you!!!***

***Philippians 1:9–10 (ESV) — 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,***

➤ ***ANTICIPATE the Return!***

***“... waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life ...”***

***The word, “waiting” used here means “to be looking forward to”...***

***The Angels promised Jesus’ return...***

***Acts 1:10–11 (ESV) — And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”***

***Jesus promised His return...***

***John 14:3 (ESV) — And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.***

***We must be longing for Jesus’ return!...***

***Romans 8:23 (ESV) — And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.***

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Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

**Jude – Contending for The Faith**  
**The Ingredients for Faithful Contending – Part 1**  
**Jude 17-21**

To contend for the faith, you must \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ **the**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **of the Word!**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ **in the**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **of God!**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **your Faith!**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **the Spirit!**

➤ \_\_\_\_\_ **the Return!**