



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Stop Drifting and Fight

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print it to study on your own or use it in a group to experience transformation together.

Message Theme

The Salvation We Share In Jesus

Prayer Focus

“Lord, help me to stand firm in Your truth. Renew my mind through Your Word so I can discern Your will and walk in it daily. Let my life reflect Your Kingdom, not the culture around me. May my faith be alive and contagious, bearing fruit in my family and those I encounter. Keep me vigilant against deception, rooted in Scripture, and anchored in Your love. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Key Truths

We are called to contend for the faith—but to do so effectively, we must first understand what that faith truly is. This begins with the renewal of our minds. Scripture uses the Greek word *metanoia*, meaning *repentance*, which is to “experience a change in the way that you think”. As we align our thinking with God’s thinking and His truth, we begin to discern His will more clearly. That transformation comes through meditating on His Word and letting it apply to every area of life.

One of the greatest legacies we can leave our families is a living, vibrant faith. It's not enough to simply tell our children what we believe; they will ultimately reflect who we are. As the saying goes, “Our compromises will become our children’s norms.” If we want to raise a generation rooted in truth, we must be that ourselves. God’s Word is like a seed—as it remains rooted, it bears fruit when planted in good soil and nurtured with intention. The Kingdom of God operates in full power only when it holds first place in our lives.

We must remain vigilant, guarding against spiritual drift. Even just decades after the resurrection, Jude urged believers to contend for the faith because many were already slipping away. That warning still echoes today. Let us be watchful, rooted, and intentional so that our faith endures and multiplies.

When our thoughts or beliefs conflict with God's Word, it's not God who needs to change—it's us. Truth doesn't bend to opinion, and two opposing views can't both be right. Anything that doesn't align with His truth must be surrendered. From the very beginning, the enemy has used deception to lead people astray. His tactics haven't changed, and neither should our vigilance. We must stay rooted in His Word, alert to lies, and anchored in truth.

Practical Application

Know the Truth: Make it a priority to study sound biblical doctrine and allow Him to plant it deep in our hearts. Understanding what the Bible teaches and what He says equips you to stand firm when truth is challenged.

Reflect the Kingdom: Resist the pull to mirror culture. Instead, let your life reflect the values of God's kingdom—love, holiness, humility, and truth.

Renew Your Mind: Transformation begins with your thoughts. Spend time daily with Him in prayer and in Scripture; the more you connect with God and read what He's said, the more clearly you'll see His perspective and will.

Live It Out: Let your beliefs shape your behavior. Truth isn't just something to know—it's something to live and pass on.

Reference Verses

- Jude 1:3
- Romans 12:2
- Joshua 1:8
- 2 Timothy 1:5-7
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Mark 4:19
- Hebrews 2:1
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Psalms 119:128
- Revelation 2:20-21
- Matthew 11:12
- James 1:27
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- Luke 19:10

Declarations:

- If I disagree with what God says, He is not the one who is wrong.
- I will contend for the faith with clarity and conviction. My mind is being renewed daily by God's Word.
- I align my thoughts with God's truth. His Word shapes my beliefs, my choices, and my legacy.
- I am vigilant and grounded. I will not drift—I stand firm in His truth.
- I choose to model unwavering commitment. My children will inherit a living and vibrant faith.

What's Next?

This message powerfully establishes that the **"common salvation"** you possess is a complete, dynamic inheritance that demands your constant defense. The key is recognizing that this salvation - complete with signs and power - was delivered once and for all, and we must avoid the cultural drift that robs us of its fullness. This guide focuses on three steps to actively apply these truths and contend for your faith daily.

1. Fully Unpack and Defend the Whole Faith

Stop treating your salvation gift as if it only contains a ticket to heaven and forgiveness; you have been given the complete package, which includes power and victory in every area, by the name of Jesus. To apply this, you must be vigilant (like Gideon's 300 men) always "looking around" and contending earnestly against compromise. This means consciously identifying and rejecting cultural customs or doctrines (like the belief that your actions or words don't matter) that conflict with the clear teachings of the New Testament, thereby preventing spiritual drift.

2. Guard the Seed by Seeking the Kingdom First

Recognize that God's Word works like a seed, and its fruitfulness depends on the ground of your heart. The biggest threats are the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things - anything that becomes more important than God's Kingdom. To apply this, ruthlessly ensure you are seeking the Kingdom of God first in all decisions. If anything (sports, career goals, or finances) is displacing your commitment to Christ, you are effectively choking the Word, and it will not produce joy, peace, healing, or deliverance in your life. Remember: your compromises become your children's norms.

3. Transform Your Mind by Engrafting God's Word

Your spirit was made new upon salvation, but your mind (soul) needs constant transformation to overcome "stinking thinking" and align with the faith. To apply this, you must meditate on the Word day and night, using it to challenge every situation, thought, and belief in your life. This process is called ingrafting: identify any area where your thinking disagrees with God's Word (your "green apple" beliefs), cut it out, and replace it with His truth (the "Honeycrisp"). This ensures you produce righteous fruit rather than reflecting the surrounding anti-biblical culture.

By applying these three steps - defending the full faith, prioritizing the Kingdom, and transforming your thinking - you commit to the diligent work necessary to avoid drifting and actively live as a victorious, counter-cultural believer today.

Scripture References

Stop Drifting and Fight

Jude 1:3 (NKJV)

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, delivered to the saints.

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe mFor it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, to do according to all that is written in it.

Jude 1:3 (MSG)

Dear friends, I've dropped everything to write you about this life of salvation that we have in common. I have to write insisting—begging!—that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)

...when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Colossians 2:22 (NKJV)

which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

Joshua 2:11-12 (NKJV)

And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NKJV)

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Jude 1:3 (NLT)

...urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hebrews 2:1 (NKJV)

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Mark 4:1-20(NKJV)

And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.' " And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Romans 10:10 (NKJV)

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Judges 6-7 (NKJV)

Mark 5:1-20 (NKJV) They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the

steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Psalms 119:128 (NKJV)

Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right...

James 1:21 (KJV)

...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Revelation 2:20-21 (NKJV)

Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality... I gave her time to repent... and she did not repent.