

Hold Tight and Live Right

Jude 1:20-25 AMP

20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; **21** Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—[which will bring you] unto life eternal. **22** And refute [so as to] convict some who dispute with you, and on some have mercy who waver and doubt. **23** [Strive to] save others, snatching [them] out of [the] fire; on others take pity [but] with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality. **24** Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]— **25** To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (splendor), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it).

Jude was combating those who would turn the liberty of grace into licentiousness.

Build Yourself Up in the Faith

How do you build yourself up in the faith?

By reading the word (Romans 10:17). We want to have a faith basis for our responses, not simply an emotional one.

Even if you don't pastor a church, you still have a congregation. People hear what you are "preaching."

To build yourself in the faith, there are steps and actions we must take.

You will not build muscle by simply reading about exercise. You also have to exercise. You will not build your faith only by reading the word. You need to apply it. The Bible helps us have confidence as we take appropriate action.

In the measure you apply your faith you will build your faith. Obedience to His word strengthens your faith.

Doing what you are comfortable doing is not an exercise of faith.

How will you have a vision for the miracles in your life to be funded if you can't even trust God for your basic provision. Tithing is an exercise of faith for God's provision.

What if you treated the job you are in right now as the last job you will ever have? What if you were to stand before the Lord and give an account of how you are working now?

Pray in the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:26-27 TPT

26 And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words. **27** God, the searcher of the heart, knows fully our longings, yet he also understands the desires of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit passionately pleads before God for us, his holy ones, in perfect harmony with God's plan and our destiny.

Praying in tongues is a powerful way for us to hold tight and live right.

1 Corinthians 14:15 AMP

Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will also pray [intelligently] with my mind and understanding; I will sing with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will sing [intelligently]

with my mind and understanding also.

Ephesians 6:17-18 TPT

17–18 Embrace the power of salvation's full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God. Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers.

Keep Loving God

Loving God included respect, honor, and obedience.

John 14:21 NKJV

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

Wait Actively and Intensely

We need to stay alert and stay awake. We need to be actively and intensively waiting because the Lord is coming back.

We need to *watch and pray* expectantly (Matthew 26:41).

Have Mercy With Boundaries

Have mercy on some, save others by intervention, and don't let your compassion for people cause you to lose your reverence for a Holy God and your hatred for sin.

One of the tactics of the enemy is for us to make friends with the world through characters on TV.

We can't lose our reverence for God nor loosen our standard of righteousness as we seek to

show mercy and compassion to others.

God Will Keep You

God will keep you going straight, without stumbling and falling. When you reach your goal your gratitude to the Lord for pushing you across the finish line will produce joy and delight that will never cease. You will love where you are and you will love Who you're with.

We will be with God in an incredible place if we hold tight and live right.

God's keeping us from falling is much like a father helping a child learn how to ride a bike. The hand of the father steadies the bicycle when the child begins to lose balance. The father does not count the number of times that the child almost fell or flaunt the times that they helped the child. Eventually they will let the bike go and the child will be able to go forward in confidence.

God keeps us from falling so that we have strength and confidence to go forward in faith.