

They've Crept In The Enemy Around You Devotional

Day 1

Jude 1:1–4

Devotional

Jude begins his short letter by reminding believers who they are before he tells them what to do: they are “called,” “beloved in God the Father,” and “kept for Jesus Christ.” Identity comes before activity. Only then does he urge them to “contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all handed down to the saints.” To “contend earnestly” isn’t about being combative or rude; it means to fight, to struggle, to exert yourself for something precious. Jude says the faith is once for all delivered—God has already revealed the core of the gospel. We don’t get to reinvent it to fit our preferences or culture. The urgent reason Jude gives is that certain people have “crept in unnoticed.” They look religious, use Christian language, and sit in Christian gatherings, but they distort grace into a license to sin and deny Jesus by how they live and teach. Jude is not attacking outsiders; he is warning the church about infiltrators and counterfeit Christianity.

Application:

Reflection: Do you see myself the way Jude describes believers—called, loved, and kept? Where have you been tempted to “soften” or ignore parts of biblical truth to avoid conflict or fit in?

Action: Choose one area where you’ve been silent out of fear. Decide one small, gracious way you will stand more clearly for truth this week. Set aside 10 minutes today to read Jude 1:1–4 again slowly, underlining the words that describe believers and circling the commands.

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, thank You that I am called, loved, and kept in You. Guard my heart from distortion and compromise. Teach me what it means to contend earnestly for the faith with humility and courage. Show me where I’ve been passive or fearful, and give me grace to stand firmly on Your Word, in love and truth. Amen.”

Day 2

Jude 1:4; 2 Timothy 3:5

Devotional

Jude describes “certain persons” who have “crept in unnoticed.” They turn “the grace of our God into licentiousness” (unrestrained sensuality) and effectively deny Jesus as Lord. Paul similarly speaks of people who have “a form of godliness, but deny its power” (2 Timothy 3:5). These are not honest strugglers. All believers wrestle with sin. These are people who redefine sin, bend Scripture to justify their desires, and package rebellion as freedom. They keep Christian language (“grace,” “love,” “justice”) but detach those words from biblical content. This is the essence of “cheap grace”—wanting forgiveness without repentance, Christ as Savior without Christ as Lord, belonging to the church without bowing to Scripture. It is a distortion of Jesus Himself: a Jesus who never confronts, never commands, never calls to holiness is not the Jesus of the Bible.

Not everyone who uses Christian vocabulary is pointing us toward the real Christ. We must measure teaching, movements, and even church cultures by Scripture, not by size, style, emotion, or popularity.

Application

Reflection: Are there areas in your life where you've tried to use “grace” as an excuse to avoid repentance or obedience? What kinds of teaching, books, podcasts, or churches am you drawn to—and do they submit clearly to Scripture, or do they reshape it to fit the culture? How do you respond internally when the Bible confronts a sin I enjoy or an opinion I like?

Action: Identify one teaching or influence in your life (a preacher, author, or influencer) and evaluate them by Jude 1:4 and 2 Timothy 3:5. Do they call sin what God calls sin? Do they affirm the authority of Scripture? Confess one area where you've been treating grace lightly (for example, a recurring sin you no longer fight). Ask a trusted believer to help hold you accountable.

Prayer: “Father, thank You for Your costly grace in Christ. Forgive me for any way I have used Your grace as a cover for sin instead of a power to leave it. Expose any pretenses or hypocrisy in me first, and then give me discernment about false teaching. Help me to love what You love and hate what You hate. Keep me close to the real Jesus. Amen.”

Day 3

Jude 1:5–7; Exodus 13–17 (summary); Genesis 19

Devotional

Jude gives three sobering examples to show that rejecting God's rule leads to destruction—even for those who once experienced His goodness:

Israel out of Egypt – God miraculously freed them, fed them, and led them. Yet many hardened their hearts, grumbled, refused to trust God's promises, and longed to go back to slavery. They loved rescue but resisted obedience and died in the wilderness.

Rebellious angels – Even heavenly beings, created good and glorious, “did not keep their own domain” but abandoned their proper place. Pride and rebellion led them from privilege to judgment.

Sodom and Gomorrah – These cities indulged in “gross immorality” and “strange flesh” (unnatural, perverse sexual sin). Their lifestyles were not just “different choices”; they were persistent, aggressive rejection of God's design and authority, ending in destruction.

All three stories share one root issue: “I will not have God rule over me.” That is the essence of sin—self on the throne. Jude is not telling these stories to make us gloat over others but to warn us: receiving spiritual privilege (Christian upbringing, church involvement, religious experiences) does not guarantee perseverance. We must continue in faith and obedience, not just start well.

Application

Reflection: Where are you most tempted to say, “I know what God says, but I want to do it my way”? Do you ever long for my “old life” like Israel longed for Egypt—romanticizing sin and forgetting its slavery?

Action: Pinpoint one area where you are knowingly resisting God's way. Take one concrete step of repentance today—change a habit, cut off an influence, confess to God and to a trusted believer. Thank God Specifically for ways He has delivered you (from sin, from destructive habits or relationships). Let gratitude fuel obedience, not entitlement.

Prayer: “Holy God, thank You for recording the stories of Israel, the angels, and Sodom as warnings for me. I confess the places where I insist on my own way. I do not want to die in the wilderness of unbelief. Soften my heart, deepen my faith, and lead me in repentance. Help me to trust that Your ways are better than mine and that true freedom is found in obeying You. Amen.”

Day 4

Acts 16:35–40; Acts 25:10–12; Romans 13:1–4; Jude 1:3–4

Devotional

Paul didn't worship Rome, but he also didn't ignore the rights he had under Roman law. When he was unjustly beaten, he protested as a citizen (Acts 16). When he was in danger of an unfair trial, he appealed to Caesar (Acts 25). He leveraged his earthly status for gospel purposes. In our context, believers often face pressure to keep quiet about biblical convictions—especially on issues like the sanctity of life, God's design for marriage and sexuality, and the uniqueness of Christ. Political, cultural, and academic systems increasingly intersect with and oppose Christian doctrine.

Christians are not called to withdraw into fear or blend into compromise, but to live visibly righteous, truthful, and compassionate lives—even when it's unpopular or costly.

Application

Reflection: Where do you feel most pressure to hide or soften your Christian conviction? Are you passive and silent about public moral issues, or loud and angry? How can you distinguish between partisan politics and biblical convictions so that your primary loyalty is to Christ and His kingdom?

Action: *Practice speaking truth in love:* Before you post or say something about a controversial issue, ask, "Does this reflect the character of Christ? Is it both truthful and gracious?" Adjust your words accordingly.

Prayer: "Lord, You have placed me in this time and this nation on purpose. Thank You for the freedoms I have. Forgive me for passivity or for speaking in ways that misrepresent You. Give me wisdom to discern what battles to fight, courage to stand when it matters, and love that sees people not as enemies but as those who need You. Use me as a faithful, humble witness in a hostile culture. Amen."

Day 5

Jude 1:1–2, 24–25; John 8:31–36

Devotional

Real freedom is found not in doing whatever we want, but in surrendering to Jesus and living in the center of God's will. This sounds upside down to our culture—but it's exactly what Jesus taught: "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free... So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:31–36). Sin promises freedom but delivers slavery. It offers pleasure while it quietly destroys. The examples Jude gives (Israel's unbelief, the angels' rebellion, Sodom's immorality) all show the same pattern: "I will be my own master" leads to bondage and judgment.

The safest, freest, most joyful place to be is under the loving lordship of Christ and trusting His Word, obeying His commands, relying on His keeping power. Bowing to Jesus is not the end of joy; it is where joy finally begins.

Application

Reflection: Are there some of God's commands that you think are restrictive rather than protective and good? What has "freedom" cost you in the past when you ignored God's way (old habits, relationships, choices)?

Action: Choose one specific area where you will consciously submit to Christ's lordship this week. Write out what obedience looks like there.

Memorize Jude 24–25. Repeat it when you feel weak, tempted, or afraid. Let it remind you that God Himself is your keeper.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I confess that my way leads to bondage and destruction, but Your way leads to life and freedom. I surrender again to You as my Savior and Lord. Rule my heart, my desires, and my choices. Thank You that I am called, loved, and kept. Keep me from stumbling and present me blameless with great joy on that final day. To You be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, now and forever. Amen."