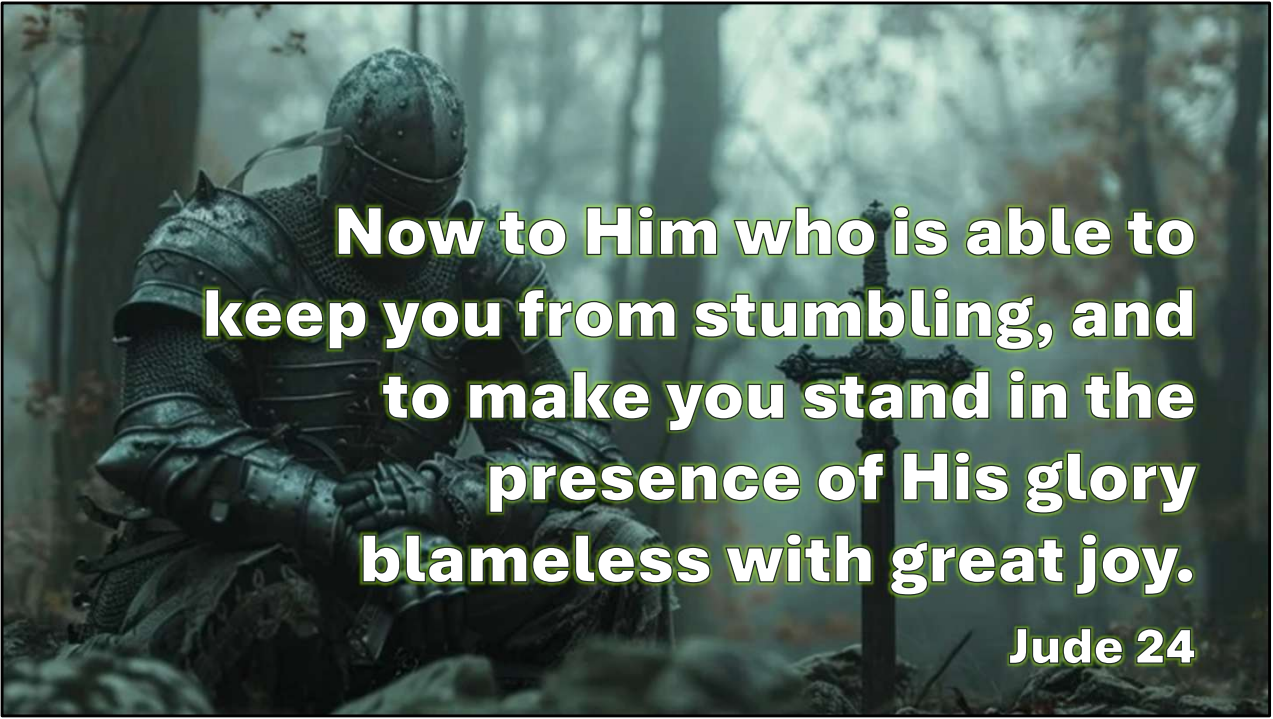




**Kept From Falling,  
Presented in Glory**



**Now to Him who is able to  
keep you from stumbling, and  
to make you stand in the  
presence of His glory  
blameless with great joy.**

**Jude 24**

## Who was Jude?

- Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ
- Brother of James
  - Matthew 13:55
  - John 7:5
- Half Brother of Jesus

- Believer -- Pastor in Early Church
- Brother of James ->
  - Matthew 13:55 – (Jesus, teaching in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, said by religious leaders) - *“Is not this (Jesus) the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and **Judas***
  - John 7:5 - *And after these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore His brothers said to Him, “Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret when he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself publicly to the world.” **For not even His brothers were believing in Him***
- Half Brother of Jesus –
  - Why call himself a slave? Why not emphasize his brotherly relationship with Jesus?

- We must understand that NO ONE is exempt from the NEED of a Savior (Jesus)

## Who was Jude's Audience?

- **Called** - κλητοῖς - klay-tos'
  - Invited (to a banquet)
  - Invited (by God in the proclamation of the Gospel) to obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom through Christ
  - Divinely selected or appointed

ἐκκλησία -> ekklésia -> ek-klay-see'-ah – The Church – a 'calling out', a called assembly of citizens

'Called' is an adjective describing the readers' position – a sense of 'what' they are more than 'who' they are

Revelation 17:14 → *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the **called** and elect and faithful.*

## Who was Jude's Audience?

- **Beloved** – agapaō - ag-ap-ah'-o
  - In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He **loved** us - 1 John 4:10
  - See how great a **love** the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God; and we are. – 1 John 3:1

## Who was Jude's Audience?

- **Kept** – tēreō - tay-reh'-o
  - For Jesus Christ
  - To attend to carefully, take care of
  - To guard
  - To Observe

### John 17 – Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples

- Verse 6 → *I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*
- Verse 11 → *And I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep them in Your name**, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.*
- Verse 12 → *While I was with them, **I was keeping them** in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*
- Verse 15 → *I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to **keep them from the evil one**.*

Jude 1:21 → **keep** yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.





## **What was Jude's Message?**

- **Earnestly Contend for the Faith – vs 3**
  - **Why Contend – vs 3-16**
- **Envelope Yourselves in the Love of God – vs 21**
  - **How to Contend vs 17-23**
- **Encouragement as We Contend – vs 24**



## Earnestly Contend for the Faith?

- **Contend = epagōnizomai = Agonize**
- **The Truth of the Gospel Calls for a Robust Battle for the Faith!**
- **THE FAITH - not what we believe – Is it what the Bible says? Or is it what the church says?**

Contend = epagōnizomai = ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee → Agonize, to struggle, strive for, labor vigorously, to fight for

- The Truth of the Gospel Calls for a Robust Battle for the Faith! → graciously, imaginably, winsomely, **UNASHAMEDLY** (Romans 1:16 → *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*)
- THE FAITH - not what we believe – Is it what the Bible says? Or is it what the church says?
- Do not twist scripture to suit our own desires!

A knight in full plate armor is kneeling in a forest, hands clasped in prayer. A wooden cross stands to the right. The scene is misty and atmospheric.

## **Earnestly Contend for the Faith?**

- **Who is this Battle against?**
  - **Ungodly persons who were IN THE CHURCH**
  - **Turned God's Grace into a License for Sin**
  - **Deny Jesus as Lord and Master!**

# Earnestly Contend for the Faith

## Rebellious

- Israelites
- Angels
- Sodom & Gomorrah

## Disrespectful / Impious

- Cain
- Balaam
- Korah

## Examples

## Blasphemers

### ❖ Those who Received Divine Justice

- ❖ Rebellious Israelites who died in the wilderness after getting what they asked for; freedom from Egyptian slavery. Saved physically but not spiritually
  - ❖ After saving (delivering) a people out of the land of Egypt - God saved Israel out of Egypt physically (A summation of Exodus 6-14, the Exodus), and gave them many signs and opportunities to believe in Him, which, if they had believed, would have resulted in their spiritual salvation. **Yet they rejected His revealed presence and consequently He judged and destroyed them.** This aptly illustrates the heretic's history, for he, like Israel, has experienced and knew God's word, and thus had ample opportunity to accept Jesus as his Savior (2 Peter 2:20-21+). Yet he, like Israel, preferred to pursue his own interests and therefore refused to subject himself in faith to God. And so he, like Israel, will suffer God's judgment.
- ❖ Angels who did not keep their abode
  - ❖ Wuest - *And angels who did not carefully guard their original position of preeminent dignity but abandoned once for all their own private dwelling-place, with a view to the judgment of the great day, in everlasting bonds under darkness, He has put under careful guard.*

- ❖ 2 Peter 2:4 → *For if God did not spare angels who sinned, but cast them into the pit and delivered them to chains of darkness, being kept for judgment;*
- ❖ Sodom & Gomorrah engaged in sexual perversion and gross immorality
  - ❖ The destruction of these cities at the SE corner of the Dead Sea is used over 20x as an illustration of God's judgment during the days of Abraham and Lot (Genesis 18:22-19:29). This destruction was in view of their apostasy, **since it occurred about 450 yrs after the Flood, when at least one of Noah's sons, Shem (Genesis 11:10,11) was still living. Since this was only 100 years after Noah's death (Genesis 9:28), people would have known about the message of righteousness and judgment from God which Noah preached, and which they rejected.** "The names of "Sodom and Gomorrah" (are) proverbial for gross immorality. This is illustrated by the fact that some Jew or Christian "some time before the eruption of A.D. 79, scribbled on a wall in Pompeii 'SODOMA GOMORRA.'"
- ❖ Even the Angel Michael did not overstep his bounds when he battled Satan and only stated 'the Lord rebuke you'.
  - ❖ No Where Else Mentioned in Scripture?
  - ❖ **COMPARISON!**
  - ❖ C H Spurgeon - To what does this refer? I am sure I do not know. I cannot think it refers to anything recorded in the Old Testament, but to some fact, known to Jude, who here speaks by revelation, and records it. We believe it, and learn from it that, when an archangel disputes with the devil, he does not use hard words even against him, for hard words are an evidence of the weakness of the cause which they are used to support. Hard arguments softly put, are the really effective weapons, but it takes some of us a long time to learn this; and generally, in our younger days, we wear away our own strength by the violence with which we use it

## Disrespectful / Impious

- ❖ Those who only care about themselves and their pursuits
  - ❖ Cain not only killed Able but then went and built a city where corruption

was rampant

- ❖ **Greed, covetousness, envy, failure to believe God as shown by withholding his best. Cain refused to submit to the authority of God and His word. Abel was a prophet according to Jesus (Luke 11:49-51), so Cain must have surely heard the truth, but he refused to submit to the truth.** Ultimately it was an issue of faith, remembering that our faith is shown to be genuine by obedience. While faith is the "root," obedience (or works - James 2:14-22) is always the "fruit." In a sense, Cain was a professor of "religion" (brought his offering) but his deeds were evil (1 John 3:12) proving he did not possess saving faith and ultimately demonstrating in whose family he belonged (1 John 3:12).
- ❖ Balaam was paid to destroy Israel and had to have a donkey talk some sense into him
  - ❖ **The heart of Balaam's problem was his heart! (1).** He wanted those fees of divination... see Numbers 22:6-41. Balaam wanted to curse the Israelites. He should have immediately said "I can't curse that which God has blessed." (2). He hedged and he compromised the Word of God when he said "Spend the night and I will see what the Lord will say to me. Maybe I can get a different word from God. Maybe He will change His mind." When God told Balaam to "Go ahead" is that really what He meant? No. We have the clear word... don't curse them in Genesis 12:3. There is a verse where God says He gave them the desires of their heart but sent leanness to their souls (Psalm 106:14,15). Sometimes God tests us and allows us to be in situations where we will obey what we know is His Truth or we will follow the way of Balaam. God even then tries to stop Balaam's donkey by running him into the wall. (3). He consorted with the enemies of God while prophesying the true words of God. False teachers can speak the Word but not live the Word. Numbers 24:11. (4). He counseled co-habitation (to have relations with the Moabite women). So while Balaam could not curse the Children of Israel, he could tell Balak how to seduce them! All because of greed! Deuteronomy 23:5 What was Balaam's end? (Numbers 31:8).
- ❖ Korah rebelled against Moses and Aaron in the desert because they weren't leading in a way that he would have
  - ❖ Korah of the tribe of Levi rebelled against the divinely established priesthood as from the tribe of Levi, and then specifically from the

line of Aaron of the tribe of Levi. **He rebelled against God's authority.** To rebel against God's chosen leaders is tantamount to rebellion against Him (and that's how God interpreted it in Numbers 16:30 = spurned the LORD).

- ❖ Enoch? The Book of Enoch – Jude refers to the apocryphal Book of Enoch but does not consider it to be inspired or authoritative.
  - ❖ 1 Enoch 1:9 → And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgement upon all, and to destroy all the ungodly: and to convict all flesh of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him



## Envelope Yourselfs in the Love of God

- Remember the words about Jesus
- Remember the warnings about the people that will mock and do not have the spirit

This is HOW we should Contend for the Faith

- ❖ Remember what you have been taught about Jesus
  - ❖ **The best "weapon" against lies of the ungodly (such as the lie that it is "okay" to turn the grace of God into licentiousness and to deny that Jesus is our Master and Lord - Jude 1:4) is the truth of God's Word. Are you daily, even moment by moment, recalling to your mind God's Word in order that His Word of Truth (the Gospel) (Colossians 1:5) might fortify your faith (Romans 10:17) and enable you to hold up the shield of faith to extinguish all the fiery missiles of untruth (Ephesians 6:16) and to have a "sword" to wield by the Spirit?** (Ephesians 6:17) One of the best ways to recall to mind truth is to "eat" or memorize the truth of God's Word and to meditate on the truth of God's Word. Jesus understood the intake of His Truth to be our great, daily need when He declared "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD (rhema - same word Jude uses in Jude 1:17) THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" (Matthes 4:4+) Are you suffering from "spiritual anorexia" regarding your intake of God's Word? It is as serious spiritually as it is physiologically! Humble yourself and ask the Spirit to give you a hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). and then be willing to submit to His leading



(Galatians 5:16, 18-note).

❖ Remember the warnings about the mockers seeking to cause division amongst you

- ❖ The root verb *empaizo* is used 13 times in the NT (Matthew 2:16; 20:19; 27:29, 31, 41; Mark 10:34; 15:20, 31; Luke 14:29; 18:32; 22:63; 23:11, 36) and all refer to the mocking of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is therefore little surprise that if evil men mocked Him at His first coming, they would mock His prophetic promise of His Second Coming (2 Peter 3:3, John 14:3). These individuals "trifle" with the things of God dealing with them as if they are of no temporal or eternal import. They show their contempt for Christ's return by ridiculing and deriding that certainty, their derision motivated by their insolence, disrespect, incredulity and desire to justify their ungodly behavior. If you are not looking for Him, you will hardly be motivated to be living for Him!

❖ We are warned about mockers and false teachers by others

- ❖ 2 Peter 3:1-3 → *This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,*
- ❖ Colossians 2:8 → *See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ.*
- ❖ Galatians 1:6-9 → *I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who*

*called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel, which is really not another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to the gospel we have proclaimed to you, let him be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is proclaiming to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be accursed! → accursed = eternally condemned!*

# Envelope Yourselves in the Love of God

## Ungodly

- Tear Down, Cause Division (19)
- Worldly Minded (19)
- Devoid of the Spirit (19)

## Godly

- Build Up (20)
- Heavenly Minded (21)
- Praying in the Holy Spirit (20)

**Jude does a quick little comparison of the Godly and Ungodly in verses 19-21 to help in our remembering**

**Spurgeon** - He has told us about the one foundation, now he bids us build thereon: "Building up yourselves on your most holy faith." "Praying." That is the next thing; there is no preservation like that which is given by God in response to believing prayer. "Praying in the Holy Ghost." There is a kind of praying which is without the Holy Ghost, and it speedeth not (will not prosper or have success; will not advance one's enterprise). There is a praying which is the breath of God in man (Ed: Spirit in Greek = pneuma = "breath"), returning whence it came; this will keep us from falling, and bring us untold blessings.

## Encouragement as we Contend

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

### Verses 24 & 25

- I. Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy. (LSB)
- II. *Now, to **the One** who is able to guard you from stumbling and to place you before the presence of His glory **faultless** in great rejoicing, (Wuest)*
- III. 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, (ESV)
- IV. Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, (NASB)



## **Encouragement as we Contend**

- **Now to Him who is able**
  - **able – dynamai - doo'-nam-ahee**
  - **God's dynamic power is necessary in the battle for the Faith!**
  - **Over 200x in NT**

The ONE who is able

- A Reminder to the called, beloved and kept (vs1) of how they were going to contend for the faith
- Not going to be able to do this in and of themselves. They are going to need help.
- He has the strength, knowledge, wisdom and will, Him Alone

dynamai – (gives us English words like dynamic, dynamo, dynamite) conveys the basic meaning of possessing and exerting the inherent ability to do something or to accomplish an end. Thus dynamai means to be able to, to be capable of, to be strong enough to do or to have power to do something. The present tense pictures God's continual inherent, supernatural ability (His omnipotence) to keep us from falling. The apostates brought in a message that could potential "stumble" someone's faith, but Jude says that they are no match for God! The enemy's lies are always trumped by God's truth and the truth about God!

Dunamai is often used of God's power to keep His children from stumbling - e.g., "He is able (dunamai) to come to the aid of those who are tempted." (Hebrews 2:18) Paul writes that God is "able (dunamai) to establish (us) according to my Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ." (Romans 16:25) God "is able (dunamai) to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." (Ephesian 3:20) "He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him." (Hebrews 7:25-note) "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able (dunamai)" (1Corinthians 10:13) For our part, we are to put on His full armor that we "may be able (dunamai) to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)



## Encouragement as we Contend

- To keep you from stumbling
  - keep – phylássō - foo-las'-so
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen and guard you from the evil one.

To keep you from stumbling (We all stumble – James 3:1-2 → *For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the entire body as well.* (talking about the tongue)).

Better understood as to guard – Luke 2:8 → *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.*

### Psalm 121 – **My Help Comes from Yahweh**

*I will lift up my eyes to the mountains;*

*From where shall my help come?*

*My help comes from Yahweh,*



*Who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not allow your foot to stumble;*

*He who **keeps** you will not slumber.*

*Behold, He who **keeps** Israel*

*Will not slumber and will not sleep.*

*Yahweh is your **keeper**;*

*Yahweh is your shade on your right hand.*

*The sun will not strike you by day,*

*Nor the moon by night.*

*Yahweh will keep you from all evil;*

*He will **keep** your soul.*

*Yahweh will **keep** your going out and your coming in*

*From now until forever.*

## Encouragement as we Contend

- To keep you from stumbling
  - Stumbling- aptaistos - ap-tah'-ee-stos
  - Standing Firm, exempt from falling, without sin
  - Psalm 116:8 - For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
  - James 2:10 - For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

**ESV Study Bible - By “stumbling” Jude means falling into sin or error...** If such stumbling is left unchecked it will eventually lead to falling away from the faith. Yet Jude says God will never let His own fall away but will “keep” them by His grace.

Psalm 116:8 → *For You have rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.*

James 2:10 → *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

John 16:1 → (Jesus) *These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.*

Sin (Iniquity) pictured as ‘crooked’ paths or heavy burdens on a crooked, bent over

back (backpacker with too much weight)

Isaiah 53:11 → *As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as **He will bear their iniquities.***

**Following (Biblical) instructions keeps us ....**

Proverbs 3:5-6 → *Trust in Yahweh with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

We are kept from stumbling by following scripture, the Truth, not the lies of these 'certain persons' (vs 4)



## Encouragement as we Contend

- And make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy
- A bride at the altar!!!

There is a popular Christian song, written in 2001 by Bart Millard, I Can Only Imagine (Mercy Me) which says "Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel? Will I dance for You Jesus? Or in awe of You be still? **Will I stand in Your presence?** To my knees will I fall? Will I sing Hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all? I can only imagine." ~~While Jude certainly does not exclude any of the descriptions in this great song, one thing he assures us of is that God is able...to make you stand! O my! How incredible it will be on that glorious day! Take a moment today and just "imagine!"~~

Jude has an answer for us! We will stand but not just stand; we will stand blameless with great joy!

- **Isaiah 61:10** → *I will rejoice greatly in Yahweh; my soul will rejoice in my God, for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

- **Zechariah 3:4** → *And he answered and spoke to those who were standing before him, saying, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” Again he said to him, “See, I have made your iniquity pass away from you and [fn]will clothe you with festal robes.”*
  
- **Revelation 7:9-10** → *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, **standing before the throne** and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” And all the **angels were standing around the throne** and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen, the blessing and the glory and the wisdom and the thanksgiving and the honor and the power and the strength, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”*
  
- **Revelation 19:7-9** → *Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

## **Encouragement as we Contend**

- **to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

What a benediction! Only God can get such affirmation and praise!



## **Application**

- **Do you Contend for the Faith?**
- **Are you Keeping yourselves in the Love of God?**
- **Do you listen to instruction well?**
- **Are you looking forward to **STANDING** Forever with Jesus?**

**END OF CONSTRUCTION - Years ago, Ruth Bell Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, saw a sign by the road: “End of Construction—Thank you for your patience.” Smiling, she remarked that she wanted those words on her gravestone.**

**After her death in June 2007, her desire was carried out. Her grave marker bears the Chinese character for righteousness (Mrs. Graham was born in China), followed by the words that made her smile.**

**Every follower of Christ can share the confidence that God’s faithfulness will carry us through this period of spiritual building on earth. We echo Jude’s words of praise: “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever” (Jude 1:24-25).**

**Today, we’re in the construction zone. Jude’s letter challenges us to**



**grow in faith, pray in the Spirit, and remain surrounded by God's love (Jude 1:20-21). But this construction is not a self-centered process. We are to show mercy to others and rescue those in danger of spiritual ruin (Jude 1:22-23).**

**One day our construction will be complete, a prospect that's worth so much more than a smile.**