



FAITH AMIDST DISTRACTIONS

THE BOOK OF JUDE

Held By God

October 25, 2026

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Jude 20-21 (read verses 17-25)

Jude concludes his letter by showing the distinctive marks of true Christians: the deepening of our cherished faith (not “blind faith”, but *trusting allegiance*) and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Jude instructs these believers to “remember what the apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold” (v. 17). They have already received the gospel; they have been instructed in the way of Christ; they have been indwelt by Holy Spirit; they stand in the hope of the coming of Christ and eternal life. Jude, now, exhorts them to “build yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love” as the way to protect themselves and those among them who are increasingly being swayed by the false teachers who have “slipped in” (v.4).

The stakes here are eternally high for Jude. He seems to agonize over the fate of these believers whom he loves and himself is contending for. He implores them to be merciful to those in the grip of the false-teachers who are doubting the gospel. Echoing Zechariah 3:2-4, Jude commands his listeners to intervene on behalf of these swaying believers by “snatching them from the fire.” He's not condemning any who sin; rather he is condemning those who “pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality”, denying Christ as the Sovereign Lord. Sin as acceptable seem to be what the false-teachers are asserting. We, too, must heed Jude and resist such distortion of Christ's grace and Lordship.

In a stunning doxology, Jude lifts our eyes to the God who keeps his people for all time and *in great joy* (v. 24).

Small Group Guide

October 25, 2026

How is the apostle's prediction in v. 18 helpful or encouraging?

Do you cherish what Jude calls “your most holy faith”?

What do you think “praying in the Holy Spirit” is? Do you struggle with prayer? How is God inviting you to renew your prayer?

How would your life with God change if you held onto the image of God meeting you “in great joy” (v.24), that God takes great delight in you?

Some Background

Similar to 1 Corinthians 2:14, Jude describes these heretical teachers as being “worldly” (ESV), following “natural instincts” (NIV). The word Paul and Jude use here for “natural/worldly” is the Greek word “*psychikos*”. This word is used in contrast with those who “have the Spirit” or are spiritual. Christians are those who no longer live according to mere natural instincts or belong to the world. Rather we have been infused with God's own animating, sanctifying, illuminating personal presence: the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, we live only by our appetites and desires. Interestingly, discoveries in neuroscience are confirming what Jude (and the Bible) says. without God's animation, we just do what our bodies tell us. Christians, by the Spirit, are more alive than that!

Reflections

If we trust Jude's words, then Christian moral ethics are not just some behavioral code to tamp down the fun. They actually lead us into being most alive in the Holy Spirit given to those who trust and walk with Jesus. Reclaiming a positive Christian moral vision in our age is imperative. This doesn't mean returning to seeing God as the “all-seeing eye”, waiting for you to trip up. Jude tells us that God himself can keep us from stumbling! And he will present us blameless and with great joy! Meditate on this picture of God who desires you to know life that never ends.