

Jude: Contending for THE FAITH (Week One)

February 11th, 2024

“Contend for THE FAITH”

Questions and Answers about Jude

Intro—Who is Jude?

- The brother of James (the less) and half-brother of Jesus; the son of Mary and Joseph.
- He was not a believer—**John 7**—mocking Jesus.
- Mentioned as a believer after the resurrection (**Acts 1:14**).
- Crucified in Edessa in AD 72.
- Jude is writing after most of the New Testament Scriptures have been written.

Jude 1–2 (NIV) — ¹Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

The book is a warning about false teachers.

- It's a warning about false teachers then, and those who were to come—their methods and motives.

Jude 3–4 (NIV) — ³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. ⁴For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

1. We are told how to know who a false teacher is.
 - a. Their doctrine, lifestyle, and motives are off course.
 - b. Answer—**THE FAITH** once and for all entrusted—past tense.
2. What is included in “**THE FAITH**” once for all delivered.
 - a. Doctrine—the Gospel.
 - b. Righteous Living.
 - c. **Galatians 1:6-9; Ephesians 4:2-6 (NIV)**
3. What does contending for “**THE FAITH**” mean—what do we do?
 - a. You will have to **CONTEND** for...i.e. stand over, fight for, in defense of—**IT WILL NOT CHANGE**.

How do we successfully do this?

- A. Become familiar with the Word of God—grow up in your salvation.
 - i. **Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Hebrews 5:11-14 (NIV)**
- B. Learn to understand and apply God's Word correctly—not to the right or left.

Where the Bible speaks, we speak—where it is silent, we are silent.

- a. **1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)**
 - b. **Acts 2:42 (NIV)**—⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- C. Be wary of anything that changes what has been believed since the beginning, especially those things that are not within “**THE FAITH**”.

THE WARNING—false teachers come and go. Their methods:

- Adding words (Legalists)

- Taking words out (Liberals)
- Redefining words
- Playing on people's pride—their fear—their sinful desires.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)— *¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*

For further study on your own:

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NIV)

Jesus affirmed this:

Luke 16:31 (NIV); Matthew 19:4–6 (NIV)

Jesus promised they would be carried along the same way—with the Holy Spirit's guidance:

John 14:23–26 (NIV); Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

Jesus sent His Apostles to teach people to obey the Word:

Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV)

The Apostles told us where they had gotten what they taught:

2 Timothy 3:12–16 (NIV); Ephesians 2:19–20 (NIV); 2 Peter 3:15–16 (NIV).

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

Icebreaker: *What are you excited to learn in this series? Who have been the biggest influencers in your life?*

Main Point: *The book of Jude gives believers today a warning about following leaders that are bent on their own sensual desires and on themselves, not under the authority of Scripture. Through this series we will be able to draw a line in the sand so that we will be able to distinguish a biblical worldview for ourselves.*

Read/Tell the Story: **Jude 1-4**

HEAD:

- Who was Jude? How did he introduce himself, and why is that noteworthy?
- Who is Jude writing to?
- How can an incorrect view of grace be perverted into a license for immorality?

HEART:

- How was the faith entrusted to you?
- What are the things in our culture that have slipped in and are threatening our faith?
- How have you been tempted to view God in a way the culture does? What brought you back to a Biblical view of God?
- What or who has helped you to keep your faith strong?

HANDS:

- What influences have you given authority to in your life that could be potentially destructive to your faith?
- What might you need to do more or less of in order to guard your faith?
- What does it look like for you to **CONTEND** for the faith in your sphere of influence?

Supporting Scripture: **Matthew 13:24-30; Romans 6:15; Hebrews 13:17; 2 Peter 2:17-19.**

Tips and Resources: *The Faith Once for All: Bible Doctrine for Today* by Jack Cottrell; *Jude-Bible Study Book* by Jackie Hill Perry