



JUDE: CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

“A Battle Worth
Fighting”

June 1-4

September 15, 2024

The Background

- ✓ **The Person** - Jude, brother of James & half-brother of Jesus
- ✓ **The Place, Period, & People** - Unknown
- ✓ **The Purpose** - To expose & confront false teachers **and** to encourage & challenge believers contend for the faith.
- ✓ **The Parallel** - [2 Peter](#)

1. Remember what God has done for us [Vs 1](#)

- ✓ I am called
- ✓ I am loved
- ✓ I am secured

2. Receive what God has given to us [Vs 2](#)

- ✓ Walk in the Lord's mercy
- ✓ Walk in the Lord's peace
- ✓ Walk in the Lord's love

3. Resolve to do what God has commanded us [Vs 3](#)

- ✓ The change

- ✓ The challenge - contend for the faith
- ✓ The certainty - the faith has been delivered

4. Recognize the dangers that surround us [Vs 4](#)

- ✓ False teachers were concealed
- ✓ False teachers were condemned
- ✓ False teachers distorted the gospel
- ✓ False teachers denied Jesus as Lord

RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it so critical that we remember what God has done for us and receive what God has given to us?
2. Why does the faith need to be defended? Is it at risk of being defeated?
3. Why does Jude suggest we must earnestly contend for the faith? How can this defense be earnest but also loving and compassionate?
4. Come up with a list of non-negotiables of true faith delivered to the saints. What Scriptures would you use to defend your answers?
5. What are some ways that cultural Christianity and our culture have twisted and actually contradict God's Word? How can you answer those?



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Jude 1-4

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This morning we begin a brand new series looking at the book of Jude. If you go ahead and turn there and it's right before the book of Revelation. Most of us may have never heard a sermon or even a series on the book of Jude, but one of my goals is that we continually work our way thru God's Word both Old and New Testament each year and this continues that journey.

What is Jude?

The book or pastoral letter of Jude is one of the shortest books in the NT yet packs a strong punch as he writes with great intensity passion, and encouragement to confront the false teachers that had secretly slipped in and infiltrated the church. Jude was written perhaps to a church or maybe several who were predominately Jewish Christians who had to be well acquainted with OT and Jewish apocalyptic literature. It is important to note that there is an overlap of material between Jude and 2 Peter, in fact there are just a few that aren't paralleled between the two. It is possible that one copied the other or that there was a common source that they drew from.

II. Who Wrote Jude?

The author identifies himself as Jude, the brother of James. He was no doubt a Jewish Christian because of his knowledge of the old Jewish writings referred to in his letter. There are several Jude's that could be considered, one who was an apostle, however Jude never identifies himself as such. Many scholars believe that Jude was the brother of James (the author of the book James & leader of the church in Jerusalem) and more importantly of Jesus. Remember, like James, Jude didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection. We don't know when it was written but seems plausible somewhere after 70 A.D.

III. Why Was Jude Written?

To encourage & challenge believers and to expose & confront false teachers It was written to a church or churches that were rocked by the

influence of false itinerant teachers who had “snuck” their way in and distorted the gospel by turning grace into a license to sin. It was to warn the church and to expose these false teachers for who they really were. Jude wrote to encourage them to contend or fight for the faith that had been entrusted to them. It also announced the judgment that would come for these false teachers.

Let’s **Read Jude 1-4** & **PRAY** and then dive in.

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2. Receive what God has given to us Vs 2

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3. Resolve to do what God has commanded us Vs 3

Know what you believe

- ✓ The change
- ✓ The challenge - contend for the faith
- ✓ The certainty - the faith has been delivered

4. Recognize the dangers that surround us (false teachers) Vs 4

Know how to live

- ✓ They were concealed - certain persons crept in
- ✓ They were condemned
- ✓ They distorted the gospel – change grace into a license to sin

- ✓ They denied Jesus as Lord

One closing truth and one that we need to hear the challenge and call and Jude tells us right up front that we must contend for the faith. Not about personalities, or music style or carpet, or preferences but that we must contend for the faith. The Gospel message cannot and must not change.

Let us not be like the Civil War and the Battle of Bull Run – Dever Page 523

- ✓ **We Must Stand For God's Truth & Share**

The word contend is where we get our word agonize from – it is a strenuous, athletic world. It means that we stand on it, that we share it with others – not that we argue about it or debate it on social media or even with others but that live out that faith and share with others with compassion and mercy the good news of the Gospel and that we don't back down or ever compromise

- ✓ **We Must Build One Another Up** We don't tear each other down – we encourage – challenge yes, hold accountable ye but all of this is done in love! It's a desire to bring the body together and not to separate it. It's something that we do together.

- ✓ **We Must Pray in the Spirit** – not praying as those who don't have the Spirit. I have heard people complain about a lot of things in my 28+ years in ministry, music, don't do this enough or that enough, rarely if ever have I ever heard someone say, we don't pray enough – we don't put enough emphasis on prayer and there is no doubt that we don't pray enough.

- ✓ **We Must Live Obediently** - we hear and heed the clear call we will see next Sunday in 1 John that we obey His commands because we love Him. We don't in rebellion but in loving submission to the Father.

- ✓ **We Must Have Compassion** – mercy and not selfishness which is all of our tendency to some degree. We care about others and we do whatever we can and whatever it takes to snatch people from the fire and see them saved!

Our Response:

Have you come to the place today where see and understand that you without Christ you have no hope or life and today you want to surrender your life to Jesus? Share the ABC's! Identify with Jesus Be baptized! Identify with His Body Are you a member of a Church home? Without one

a Christian is an orphan. Don't just attend step over the line today & join this family! **Invest in your calling** – to answer God's call to full time ministry
Identify where is the Lord speaking to me from the message today
PRAY Invitation: “This We Know”