

# CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

## Jude 1:3-5 GW

3 Dear friends, I had intended to write to you about the salvation we share. But something has come up. It demands that I write to you and encourage you to continue your fight for the Christian faith that was entrusted to God's holy people once for all time.

4 Some people have slipped in among you unnoticed. Not long ago they were condemned in writing for the following reason: They are people to whom God means nothing. They use God's kindness as an excuse for sexual freedom and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

5 I want to remind you about what you already know: The Lord once saved his people from Egypt. But on another occasion he destroyed those who didn't believe."

"Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, [writes this letter],

To those who are the called (God's chosen ones, the elect), dearly loved by God the Father, and kept [secure and set apart] for Jesus Christ:

**To those who are called:** Jude wrote to Christians. Not as a means to evangelize but as a warning.

i. Jude identified his readers as Christians in three specific ways:

· They were **called**. A person is a Christian because God has **called** him. The important thing is to *answer* the call when it comes,

- They were **sanctified by God the Father**. This means that they were *set apart* – set apart from the world and set apart unto God.
- They were **preserved** in Jesus. Jesus Christ is our guardian and our protector.

### Jude 1:3

“Dear friends, I had intended to write to you about the salvation we share. But something has come up.

I was compelled to write to you [**urgently**] *appealing that you fight strenuously for [the defense of] the faith*

*KJV reads (earnestly contend) which means striving together for the faith*

**Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith:** This was the great need that Jude interrupted his intended letter to address.

*The ancient Greek word translated “**contend**” comes from the athletic world – from the wrestling mat. It is a *strengthened* form of the word meaning “**to agonize.**” Therefore “**contend**” speaks of hard and diligent work.*

i. The verb translated **contend earnestly** is (in the grammar of the ancient Greek), showing that the Christian struggle is continuous.

ii. We **contend earnestly for the faith** because it is valuable.

### **ANYTHING WORTH HAVING IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

Valuables are protected; worthless things are not.

d. **Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith:** If we emphasize the word **you**, we see that this was something that Jude wanted each individual Christian to do.

We all have a part to play as we **contend earnestly for the faith**.

i. We contend for the faith in a *positive* sense when we give an unflinching witness, distribute tracts, make possible the training of faithful ambassadors for Jesus, or when we strengthen the hands of faithful pastors who honor the Word of God in their pulpits. These are a few among many ways that we can **contend earnestly for the faith** in a *positive* sense.

ii. **We contend against the faith when we praise false teachers, liars and deceivers, and live foul as a body of believers doing what is right in our own eyes**

**Jude 1:4 Some people have slipped in among you unnoticed. Not long ago they were condemned in writing for the following reason: They are people to whom God means nothing. They use God's kindness as an excuse for sexual freedom and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

*Sounds like today doesn't it, people have fallen in love with the personalities of men and have allowed faulty and perverted doctrine to shape their view of God and christianity*

*There is a standard that we ought to live by as SONS and believers in Jesus our Lord and Savior.*

*When we lower our standard to appease the flesh and to appease the ways of the world, we make room for the enemy.*

*Just like when a city fails to lift its shields or its (fortress) during an oncoming battle, we are left vulnerable to susceptible to all kinds of evil.*

**We contend for the faith in a practical sense when we live uncompromising Christian lives that bring glory and honor to our heavenly father.**

Jude ends his letter with the following words:

### **Jude 1:24 ESV**

**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,**

a. **Now to Him:** Jude closes the letter with a famous *doxology* (a brief declaration of praise to God). Jude's doxology reminds us of God's care and of our destiny.

b. **Who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless:** Jude's message of warning and doom might have depressed and discouraged his readers. Here he reminds them that the answer lies only in the power of God. He **is able to keep you**, and you aren't able to keep yourself.

i. In mountain climbing, the beginning hiker attaches himself to the expert so that if he loses his footing he won't stumble and fall to his death. In the same manner, if we keep connected with God, we cannot fall. He keeps us safe.

### **Psalm 119:9**

**How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.**

ii. By comparing passages of Scripture, we also find out who is really responsible for our safe keeping. **Jude began the letter by addressing those who are *preserved in Jesus* (Jude 1).**

Then he exhorted Christians to avoid dangerous men and to keep themselves *in the love of God* (Jude 21) Here at the end he concluded with the recognition that **it is ultimately God who keeps us from stumbling and falling.**

Paul put the same idea in **Philippians 2:12-13**: *work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

God doesn't call us to simply let the Christian life happen to us and He doesn't command us to save ourselves. He calls us to a life of surrender to his will and his way and in return we will see him stay faithful to his word and promises over us.