

**“Jude: Called to Contend – Part 2”**  
**Jude verses 1-4, 20-25**  
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**Key Points:**

**1. Contend for the Faith (verses 3-19)**

- a. False teachers infiltrated the church to which Jude was writing. These false teachers distorted the gospel of grace (*“pervert the grace of our God...”* v. 4). These false teachers altered the moral implications of the gospel by advocating permissiveness in relation to sin (*“pervert the grace of our God into sensuality.”* v. 4 *“These are grumblers, malcontents, following the own sinful desires...”* v. 16). These false teachers are proud and arrogant (*“reject authority and blaspheme the glorious ones...”* v.8). And these false teachers are hard to detect (*“crept in unnoticed”* v. 4) because they represent themselves as Christians.
- b. But these false teachers will experience judgment for perverting the gospel. To illustrate their anticipated judgment, Jude gives examples of judgment and draws application to the false teachers: rebellious angels (v. 6), immoral cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 7), and the rebellion of Cain, Balaam and Korah (v.11).
- c. The church has been entrusted with this glorious gospel. When the gospel is threatened, it must be defended and protected. In other words, the church must contend for the purity of the gospel. Beginning with those who lead and govern the church—pastors—the church must not tolerate additions, subtractions, alterations or adjustments to the *“faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”* (v. 3).

**2. Contend for your heart (verses 21-23)**

- a. We must be attentive to our relationship with the Lord. Jude commands, *“keep yourselves in the love of God”* (v. 21). Confident in the calling, the love and the preserving grace of the Father, we must put forth Spirit and grace motivated effort to keep ourselves in the love of God. How can we do this?
  - i. Build – *“build yourselves up in you most holy faith”* (v. 20). In other words, build up your faith by reminding and applying the gospel to yourself each day.

*“There is simply no other way to compete with the forebodings of my conscience, the condemnings of my heart, and the lies of the world and the Devil than to overwhelm such things with daily rehearsings of the gospel.”*  
—Milton Vincent

- ii. Pray – *“pray in the Holy Spirit”* (v. 20). Throughout the day, in structured and spontaneous times, we must humble ourselves and cry out to God for His help and grace. When we lack or neglect prayer, pride and self-sufficiency

have taken root in our hearts, and our experience of the love of God grows cold.

- iii. Wait – “*waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (v. 21). In our instant gratification culture, waiting is difficult and doesn’t come naturally. But what we wait for can transform our experience of waiting. In the midst of life’s circumstances, what are we waiting for? The mercy of our Lord—not justice, judgment or condemnation. We are waiting for God’s mercy.
  - b. There is no secret, mystical formula for keeping ourselves in the love of God. If we fail to attend to our hearts and our relationship with the Lord, the consequences of this neglect will eventually be obvious. We will find ourselves in a spiritual “sinkhole.” This condition may appear to have come on suddenly, but it did not. Neglect and drift were happening over a long period of time.
    - i. What we find at the bottom of this spiritual sinkhole are the strong, everlasting arms. He convicts, He forgives, and He promises unchanging love and preserving grace.
- 3. Trust in God’s preserving power (verses 24-25)**
- a. Our confidence that we will be kept in God’s love is not in our diligence or faithfulness. Our confidence is rooted in the preserving grace of God. Richard Sibbs, writes, “*As we say of the mother and the child, both hold but the safety of the child is that the mother holds him.*” The safety of the child is not in the grip of the child but the loving grip of the mother. The same is true for us. Verse 24 promises:
    - i. The Lord will keep us from stumbling. His grip will keep us safe.
    - ii. On that final Day, the Lord will present us blameless before His glorious presence, and ...
    - iii. ... He will do this with great joy.
  - b. In light of such wonderful news of God’s preserving grace, Jude responds in the only appropriate way—with worship. Because of God’s initiative to call, to love and to keep us, He deserves our praise and our adoration. He deserves all the glory (v. 25).

### **Fellowship Starters**

1. Why is it important for the church to contend for the purity of the gospel? What are the consequences to God’s people and the church of allowing additions, subtractions or alterations to the gospel of grace?
2. How much time are you devoting each day to preaching the gospel to yourself? How can this daily practice build up your faith and fan into flame your affection and love for God?

3. Are you experiencing a season of waiting, like waiting for an answer to prayer or waiting for relief in a season of suffering? How can “*waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (v. 21) bolster your trust in the faithful, merciful, preserving grace of God?
4. Has neglect of keeping yourself in the love of God left you in a spiritual “sinkhole”? At the bottom, are you aware of the One who convicts, forgives and promises unchanging love and preserving grace? What can you do today to repent and return to the Lord?
5. Whether you are experiencing blessing or suffering, how can the truth of God’s preserving grace transform your perspective of each circumstance and encourage your trust and faith?
6. Jude ends his letter by responding in the only appropriate way—with worship (v. 25). Take time—alone, with family or your care group—to worship, praise, and give Him all the glory for His initiative to call, to love, and to keep YOU.