

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

**1. Introduction:**

- a. Author – Jude, a servant (or slave) of Jesus Christ. Jude is the brother or James, the author of the letter of James and a pillar in the Jerusalem church. Though not mentioned, (because of Jude’s humility) Jude would, therefore, also be the younger brother of Jesus.
- b. Purpose of this letter: to encourage this church, which has been troubled by false teachers, to “*contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*” (v.3)
- c. But before Jude calls them to contend for the faith, he reminds them of the glorious gospel.

**2. Called by God the Father (God’s past initiative)**

- a. “Called” is a one-word description of the Christian. “Called” is why we are Christians. We are not Christians because we are intellectually or morally superior to unbelievers. It is because we have been graciously and personally summoned by God through the proclamation of the gospel.
- b. This is not a general call for all to be saved. This is a personal, specific, and effectual call – a divine summons. “*It is not God’s invitation to be saved, it is God’s determination to save.*” – J. Alec Motyer.

*“Let me refresh your memories with your calling. Was there not a day, the mementoes of which you fondly cherish, when you were called from death unto life? Fly back now to the day and hour if you can, and, if not, light upon the season thereabouts, when the great transaction took place, in which you were made Christ’s forever, by the voluntary surrender of yourself to him. In looking back, does it not strike you that your calling must have been of divine origin? The text says, ‘God called you’—does not your experience prove the same? How gracious that calling must have been since it came to you from God; came to you irresistibly, and came to you with such personal demonstration! What grace was here! What was there in you to suggest a motive why God should call you? Oh, beloved, we can hardly ask you that question without the tear rising in our own eye. Should not this calling of ours evoke our most intense gratitude, our most earnest love? Oh, if he had not called thee, where hadst thou been tonight? Who am I—what should I have been if the Lord, in mercy, had not*

*stopped me in my mad career! This was a kind and gracious call, when we consider what we might have been.*” —Charles Spurgeon

### 3. **Loved by God the Father (God’s present and ongoing initiative)**

- a. What motivated God the Father to call us when we deserved His wrath and judgment? Why would He stop us in our “mad career” of sin and save us? The answer is His love. As Jude writes, we are *“beloved in God the Father.”*
- b. Many think hard thoughts of God the Father—that He is tolerating me, frustrated with me and eager to discipline me; He is angry, wrathful, and distant. But that is an improper view of God. We must replace those wrong thoughts with thoughts that the Father is gracious and good. In all things, He has our best interest at heart. All the days of our lives, He rejoices over us to do us good. In all things, He loves us with a personal and particular affection.
- c. If you are uncertain about the Father’s love for you, this will affect everything. Until you grasp His love, you will hesitate to hold communion with the Father, you will be vulnerable to introspection, condemnation and despair. Until you grasp His love for YOU, there will be the distinct absence of joy in your life.
- d. Where do we find this specific and personal love? Don’t look inside, but look to Calvary. And look behind the cross to the Father who initiated it all. God loved us with such an intense and personal love that He poured out the wrath and justice that we deserved on His Son so He could redeem and reconcile us to Himself and adopt as His sons and daughters.

### 4. **Kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (God’s future initiative)**

- a. After retracing their conversion experience, Jude turns the people’s attention to the future and assures them that one who has been called by the Father and loved by the Father will surely be kept and preserved by Father.
- b. To this church troubled by false teachers, these are sweet words of assurance. The sovereign God of the universe will keep and protect them from doctrinal error and the influences of sin. The Father who calls and loves also preserves.
- c. Why should this truth make a difference for us? It fills us with an eternal perspective—God’s perspective on our future. Regardless of our circumstances, we can have faith and hope that God will keep, protect and care for us.

### **Fellowship Starters**

1. Has “AMAZING GRACE” diminished to “amazing grace”? Do you need to remember that God summoned and called you? Do you need to reflect on where you would be had God not called? By way of remembrance, take some time to share your testimony with family, friends or care group.

2. Do you think “hard thoughts” about God the Father—that He is angry wrathful and distant? How can you begin to replace those wrong thoughts with thoughts that in all things God is good, gracious, and loving toward you?
3. Are you uncertain about the disposition of the Father’s heart of love toward you? How can reflecting on God’s call and on Calvary help you to see God’s personal and particular love for YOU?
4. What do you fear or worry about – your finances, your job, your health, your family, the future, etc? How can the truth that you are “kept for Jesus Christ” fill you with faith and hope, regardless of your circumstances or the uncertainty of the future?