

Contending the Faith

Jude 17-25

1. Remember: The Warning vs. 17-18

Do not be discouraged! God foreknew that people would try to divide the church and God used His apostles' teachings so that we will not be caught off guard.

Question:

What often causes division in churches today?

In what specific ways do some scoff at Christians and Christian beliefs today? Pray for any who scoff at Christ and Biblical teachings today.

2. Respond: Secure The Faith vs. 20-21

How do we respond? The church must maintain their own faith in order to properly respond through encouraging one another to hold fast to the truths of Christ, maintaining a lifestyle that reflects Christ, praying in the Spirit on all occasions, take advantage of God's power that keeps us in God's love, and to eagerly but patiently wait for our Lord Jesus Christ's return.

Question:

What can you do to build up your faith this week?

What can you do to build up the faith in someone else?

3. Reach Out: Rescue Those In Danger vs. 22-23

When your own spiritual condition is secure, then you can now reach out to those who....

- a) **Doubt-** People within the church who are being somewhat swayed by the false teaching.

Reach Out- To display mercy and take the time to disciple them in the areas that they are being swayed.

- b) **Danger Facing-** They have gone so far as to commit to the teachings and are now in danger of suffering God's judgment.

Reach Out: The faithful followers of God need to be transparent with them; with the hope to save them from God's judgment.

c) **Devotee-** False Teachers or at least church members who have given their allegiance to them.

Reach Out: We display mercy through our continuation of interceding for them in prayer, but at the same time be cautious in our contact with them so that we may remain secure in our faith.

Question:

How can you show mercy to a believer you know who doubts his or her faith?

4. Refresh: God's Identity vs. 24-25

No matter what we face, let us focus on God, salvation through Jesus and His promises; securing us in our faith so that we can stand before Him on the last day spotless, forgiven, assured of an eternal life with God.

Conclusion:

How do we contend for our faith? To remember that God forewarned through the apostles that this would happen, to respond by focusing on maturing in our faith, to reach out to those who may walk away from the faith with Jude's godly wisdom, and to refresh in focusing on who God is and what He has promised.