

# Lessons From Jude

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## Contending Earnestly For The Faith

(Jd 3-4)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of sermons on “Lessons From Jude.”
  - a. Last week we notice some introductory thoughts concerning this great book.
    - i. Such as the audience being the general church not a specific group.
  - b. This week we are going to look at what Jude writes concerning “Contending Earnestly For The Faith.”
3. Jude originally wanted to write not about contending for the faith but rather the common salvation found through faith.
  - a. **Jd 3** “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”<sup>1</sup>
4. Jude reason for changing his original purpose is found in the next verse.
  - a. **Jd 4** “For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”
5. Jude points out that men “crept in unnoticed.”
  - a. This should give every single one of us pause that such could happen back then when apostles were around and great men of faith.
  - b. How much easier today could this happen if we as a congregation are not on guard?
6. It is this reason Jude makes a plea for each congregation to “Contend Earnestly For The Faith.”

### I. The “Need” To Contend Earnestly For The Faith

- A. Some will deny the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures
  1. Notice Jude wrote to contend for, “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”
    - i. This implies that “the faith” was delivered once for everyone.
  2. The faith is no longer “being delivered.”
    - i. Paul preached “the whole counsel of God.”
      - a. **Ac 20:27**
    - ii. Peter claimed that God had given, “all things that pertain to life and godliness.”
      - a. **II Pt 1:3**
  3. If we have...
    - i. The one time delivered faith.
    - ii. The whole counsel of God.
    - iii. Everything that pertains to life and godliness.
      - a. Then we have the all-sufficient Word of God.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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4. Therefore when people suggest that...
  - i. God's revelation is incomplete or is still in progress we need to "contend earnestly for the faith."
- B. Some will pervert the grace of our God
  1. There were those in Jude's day that turned the grace of God into sensuality or lewdness.
    - i. The word sensuality here means, "baseness" (from aischos, "shame, disgrace"), is used in Eph, 5:4, of obscenity, all that is contrary to purity." (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (237). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
    - ii. Their doctrine was to "openly sin that grace may abound."
  2. There are some today who pervert the grace of God.
    - i. They do so to make excuses for disregarding God's law.
    - ii. They do so to make excuses for their lifestyle that is contrary to God's law.
      - a. How many times have you heard, "God is too loving, His grace is too wonderful, to condemn us when we are so sincere!" (Sermon: Contending earnestly For The Faith by Copeland, Mark)
  3. Thus when people suggest that...
    - i. We must sin that grace may abound we must "contend earnestly for the faith."
- C. Some will deny God's authority
  1. Jude was dealing with those that denied "our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."
    - i. Some translations have "Lord God and Lord Jesus Christ."
      - a. The first Lord and second Lord are two different words.
        1. The first "Lord" means master over others ie one with authority over others.
        2. The second "Lord" means supreme authority.
      - ii. The idea thusly is that there were some that were denying the one that is master over all of us and our supreme authority.
    2. Today people deny God's authority all the time.
      - i. They do this by showing a lack of respect for God's Word.
        - a. They twist and change it to fit their agendas.
      - ii. They do this by ignoring God as the ultimate authority.
        - a. They set up conventions, councils, synods popes and the like as "ultimate authority" seen as creeds.
    3. Thus when people suggest...
      - i. That we must deny Christ's authority in any way we must "contend earnestly for the faith."

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### II. The “Way” To Contend Earnestly For The Faith

- A. We must contend “earnestly”
  - 1. The word “earnestly” in the Greek relates to the English word “agony.”
    - i. The term is associated with the most vigorous strife and combat.
    - ii. The word is in the present tense meaning it is a continuous struggle.
    - iii. Jude understood that the fundamentals of the Christian faith were under attack. Nothing but vigorous counter-contention would be enough.
  - 2. The use of such a word suggests we are at war.
    - i. **II Co 10:3-6** “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.”
    - ii. **Ep 6:10-13** “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”
  - 3. If we are at war...
- B. We must use the weapons that are at our disposal
  - 1. We must use the...
    - i. Belt of truth
    - ii. Breastplate of righteousness
    - iii. Shoes of the gospel of peace
    - iv. Shield of faith
    - v. Helmet of salvation
    - vi. Sword of the Spirit (God’s Word)
  - 2. We must also use those things that are “mighty in God.”
    - i. Meekness and gentleness in Christ
      - a. **II Co 10:1-6**
    - ii. Spiritual caution
      - a. **Ga 6:1**
    - iii. Refrain from quarrels ie unnecessary disputes.
      - a. **II Ti 2:23-26**

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### CONCLUSION

1. As one brother put it, “The call to “contend earnestly for the faith” is not a license to engage in “contentions” and “outbursts of wrath...But it is a call to vigorously contend with all the weapons at our disposal.” (Sermon: Contend Earnestly For The Faith by Copeland, Mark)
2. Question: Are you willing to contend earnestly for the faith?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why, not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**