

JUDE 1:17-25
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUMBLE!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Jude chapter 1 as we continue our in-depth study of the book of Jude and this morning, we will finish our study in Jude.

Over the last several weeks we have seen in our study of Jude the warning that the Holy Spirit has given to us regarding the apostates, these false teachers that have come into the church.

It is important to know who your enemy is, and Jude has shown us, but it is also important to know how to stand in these last days so that we don't stumble.

And that is how Jude is going to conclude this letter – ***YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUMBLE!***

Warren Wiersbe gives us this interesting insight into the concluding remarks of Jude. He wrote,

I read somewhere that the Great Wall of China was penetrated at least three times by the enemy, and each time the guards were bribed!

A strong defense depends on strong people, and this applies to spiritual battles as well as military contests.

If the church is to oppose and defeat the false teachers, then all of us in the church must be strong and able to “stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11).

There is always the danger of stumbling (Jude 24) and a stumble is the first step toward a fall.

I think that is interesting that the guards were bribed so the enemy could penetrate the Great Wall of China!

Now you may be thinking, *“How does that even apply to us, no one tries to bribe us to follow these apostates, do they?”*

Make no mistake about it, they do. They bribe us by telling us that by doing this your church will grow bigger. They bribe us with bigger positions. They bribe us with money. They bribe us with pride, that we know something that others don't. There are all kinds of ways to bribe us, the wiles of the Devil, and we let our guard down and the enemy is able to get into our lives!

The other problem I see is that many Christians have fallen asleep, and they are not even aware of what is going on in their own lives or in the church they are attending!

Paul picked up on that in Romans 13:11-14 as he admonishes us by saying, **“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”**

Let me ask you this question. *“Do you think the Church of Jesus Christ is asleep today?”*

It saddens me to say this, but the church is not just asleep, it seems to be in a coma!

There is no real concern for false teaching for many Christians today. The church has allowed into it all kinds of immoral activities. We see homosexuality being embraced by the church. Divorce is not even an issue anymore; it is a common practice in the church.

Here are some signs we are asleep at the present time:

The absence of conviction of sin!

A lack of the fear of God!

Little sense of outrage over the godlessness of society!

Watching pornography and feeling justified!

Materialism, greed and lack of financial integrity!

No sense of outrage over the Church's lack of credibility in the world!

Little or no concern about people going to hell!

Little concern about the lack of knowledge of God's Word!

Indifference to the biblical view of marriage!

Indifference to holding grudges and unforgiveness!

Indifference to talking to people about Christ!

Tolerating heresies and false teachers!

Indifference to the teaching that the Bible is infallible!

Indifference to how much time is spent in prayer and quiet time!

No interest in Bible prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ!

Keep in mind that these apostates, these false teachers have crept into churches and the reason that they could is that we are either asleep or we don't care and that is not a good thing.

Folk's, agree with me or not, the return of the Lord is getting closer, and we need to put off those works of darkness and put on the light of God and shine for Jesus in these dark days.

And if the light of God is shining in your life, you won't stumble because you can see where you are going.

Jude has warned us about these dangers, and thus, what are we going to do about it, how are we going to stand!

And thus, we are going to look at – ***YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUMBLE!***

I have broken these verses we will be looking at into the following main points. They are,

REMEMBER THE WORD – JUDE 1:17-18

LOOK AT THEIR FRUIT – JUDE 1:19

BUILD YOURSELF UP – JUDE 1:20

LOOK AT OUR FRUIT - JUDE 1:21-23

HE WILL KEEP US FROM STUMBLING – JUDE 1:24-25

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Jude chapter 1, beginning in verse 17 and let's see what the Lord has for us this morning as we finish our study in Jude and we look at - ***YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUMBLE!***

JUDE 1

VERSES 17-18

Jude is speaking to us, "**But you . . .**"

And what are we to do?

Jude tells them to "**remember**" or *MIMNESKOMAI* in the Greek and it is a command for us to remember the truths of God, don't let these apostates cause you to forget these things!

In other words, listen to the words of the Apostles; listen to what the Word of God is telling us; don't listen to those that are not saved, the apostates, the pretenders because, as Jude is going to tell us in Jude 1:19, they do not have the Spirit of God in them!

And you must understand that if they don't have the Spirit of God in them, they are not saved.

That is what Paul tells us in Romans 8:9, **“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”**

Paul warned us of these days and yet, we seem unaware, at least many seem unaware of what is going on. In II Timothy 4:3-5 Paul wrote, **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”**

They are looking for teachers who will teach them what they want to hear not what God wants them to hear, not the Word of God!

Let me give you this example of new revelations from God. This is from author Neale Donald Walsch in his book – *The New Revelations: A Conversation with God*. This is what the book is about from Amazon,

This is a life-altering book. It contains New Revelations. It provides the tools with which to pull ourselves out of despair, lifting the whole human race to a new level of experience, to a new understanding of life itself, to a new expression of its grandest vision.

Neale Donald Walsch believes that the human race has reached a Time of Choosing. Our options are being placed before us by the tide of events - and by those who are creating them. We can either move forward, building together at last a new world of peace and harmony based on new beliefs about God and Life, or move backward, separately and continuously reconstructing the old world of conflict and discord.

In *The New Revelations*, bestselling author Walsch offers possible and powerful answers to the questions facing the world, and urges us to open our hearts and minds to what may be one of the most important spiritual statements of our time.

- <https://bit.ly/3psfYc1>

It sounds wonderful, but make no mistake about it, the lies of the Devil sound good or no one would listen to them.

Let me share with you what he wrote in chapter 1 of this book, and you will see the danger.

Christians have read this book as well as his first book, *Conversations with God*, and they both are dangerous. If you don't believe me, then listen to what he wrote,

God, please be here. We need help.

I am here.

We need help.

I know.

Right now.

I understand.

The world is on the brink of disaster. And I'm not talking about natural disaster; I'm talking about man-made calamity.

I know. And you're right.

I mean, humans have had disagreements before, and serious ones, but now our divisions and disagreements can lead not simply to wars - which are bad enough - but to the end of civilization as we know it.

That is correct. You have assessed the situation correctly.

You understand the severity of the problem; you simply do not understand the nature of the problem. You do not know what is causing it. So you keep trying to solve it at every level except the level at which it exists.

Which is?

The level of belief.

The problem facing the world today is a spiritual problem.

Your ideas about spirituality are killing you.

You keep trying to solve the world's problem as if it were a political problem, or an economic problem, or even a military problem, *and it is none of these*. It is a spiritual problem. And that is the one problem human beings don't seem to know how to solve.

Then help us.

I am.

How?

In many ways.

Name one.

This book.

This book will help us?

It can.

What do we have to do?

Read it.

And then what?

Heed it.

That's what they all say. "It's all in The Book," they say. "Read it and heed it. That's all you have to do." The problem is, *they all hold up a different book.*

I know.

And every book says something else.

I know.

So now we should "read and heed" *this book?*

It's not a question of what you should do. It's a question of what you may do if you choose to. It is an invitation, not a requirement.

Why would I want to read this book when I've already been told by True Believers that all the answers are in the *other* books - the books that *they* are telling me to heed?

Because you have not heeded them.

Yes, we have. We believe that we have.

That's why you now need help. You believe that you have, but you have not.

You keep saying that your Holy Book (your cultures have many different ones) is what has given you the authority to treat each other the way you are treating each other, to do what you are doing.

You are able to say that only because you have not really listened to the deeper message of these books. You have read them, but you have not really *listened* to them. . . .

It means that the basic message of all the sacred scriptures is the same. What is different is how human beings have been interpreting them.

There is nothing "wrong" with having different interpretations. What may not benefit you, however, is separating yourself over these differences, making each other wrong because of these differences, and killing each other as a result of these differences. . . .

You argue among yourselves about what the Qur'an says, and about what its words mean. You argue among yourselves about what the Bible says, and about what its words mean. You argue among yourselves about what the Veda says, what the Bhagavad-Gita says, what the Lun-yü says, what the Pali Canon says, what the Tao-te Ching says, what the Talmud says, what the Hadith says, what the Book of Mormon says . . .

And what of the Upanishad, the I Ching, the Adi Granth, the Mahabharata, the Yoga-sutras, the Mathnawi, the Kojiki?

Okay, we get the point.

No, actually, you don't. And *that's* the point. The point is, there are *many* holy writings and sacred scriptures, and you act as if there is only *one*. . . .

But isn't that how it should be? I mean, you have to stand up for *something* in life. And the Word of God IS what's right!

Which God?

Which God?

Yes, which God?

Adonai? Allah? Elohim? God? Hari? Jehovah? Krishna? Lord? Rama? Vishnu? Yahwey?

The God whose words were brought to us clearly by the Master and the Prophets.

Which Master and which Prophets?

Which Master? Which Prophets?

Yes.

Adam? Noah? Abraham? Moses? Confucius? Siddhartha Gautama? Jesus? Patanjali? Muhammad? Baha'u'llah? Jalal al-Din Rumi? Martin Luther? Joseph Smith? Paramahansa Yogananda?

You're not equating all of those with each other, are you?

Why not? Is one greater than the other?

Certainly!

Which one?

The one in whom I believe!

Exactly. Now *you* get the point.

So what do you want me to do, give up my beliefs?

I don't "want" you to do anything. The question is, what do you want to do?

I want to find a way to get past all of these mixed-up beliefs that humans have.

There is a way.

Which is?

Transcend them.

What does that mean?

Transcending means to go beyond, to move past. It does not mean to completely reject or totally destroy. You do not have to destroy a thing in order to move past it.

You would not want to destroy your old belief system in any event, because there is too much of it that you will wish to retain.

“Transcending” does not mean always being “other than,” it means always being “larger than.” Your new, larger belief system will no doubt retain some of the old -- that part of the old belief system that you experience as still serving you -- and so it will be a combination of the new and the old, not a rejection of the old from top to bottom.

Can you see the difference?

I think so.

Good. Then you can stop your resistance.

- <https://bit.ly/3psfYc1>

In other words, in your belief, just get rid of those things that cause division and hold onto your beliefs that unite! Sorry, that is of the Devil, and it is not of God.

If we can't trust parts of the Bible or we have to edit the Bible, we might as well not believe in any of it and that is what is happening today as many have compromised their faith!

If you don't want to stumble, then turn on the light of God's Word!

What did the Psalmist say, **“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”**

Psalm 119:105.

Notice that God's Word is not darkness, it does not lead you into darkness, there is no darkness in it. God's Word is a lamp and a light to our lives and how important that is especially in the dark days we are living in.

Imagine being blind and not knowing where you are going, what is the right way and what is the wrong way to go. That is how it is for people who have rejected God and His Word, they are in spiritual darkness, and they are groping for anything and everything, but it remains darkness to them. God's Word is there to direct our lives, to keep us on the right path, it is truth!

And thus, Jude is admonishing us to – ***REMEMBER THE WORD!***

Next, we will – ***LOOK AT THEIR FRUIT!***

VERSE 19

Please understand that I am not saying we, as Christians don't struggle in areas of the flesh, we do. But that is the key, we feel the conviction of God, we know it is wrong and we ask the Lord to help us.

These apostates don't. They don't feel the conviction of God upon their lives. They don't feel guilty about what they do. They don't have the Spirit of God in them, they are not saved!

And their love for the flesh is then manifested in what they do. Notice how these apostates are walking, they would “**. . . walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause division, not having the Spirit.**” Jude 1:18b-19.

One writer put it like this regarding this word “**sensual.**” He wrote, “*Sensual in this context has nothing to do with sexual attractiveness. It describes the person who lives only by and for what he can get through his physical senses, and he lives this way selfishly. His motto is, ‘If it feels good, do it’ or, ‘How can it be wrong if it feels so right?’*”

The problem today is that many Christians are not awake, or they just don't care about these apostates who have crept into the church and thus, they continue to allow them to bring in their destructive heresies!

And this is what I have experienced from apostates or those who bring in destructive heresies – ***THEY CAUSE DIVISION!***

Why do they do that?

Because they are bringing in doctrine that is contrary to the Bible and they get people to side with them. In other words, they are drawing people to themselves. They also know that to divide is to conquer!

When I had to deal with that Hebrew Roots movement that a few people were bringing into the church, it was causing division.

And when I found out about it, I was preparing to go to Haiti to teach pastors, to minister to them, to encourage them.

But, if I did not deal with this, then this cancer of false teaching would continue to grow and grow and by the time I got back, who knows what would have happened. I am thankful that I had Steve overseeing things, but this was a big deal.

Did some people leave the church when I clamped down upon this false teaching and these false teachers? Yes, but that is just the way it is. You can't allow false teachers and their teaching to remain, or it will harm others and bring about division in the church!

Keep in mind that the Bible is full of warnings about the deceptions of the last days, and we need to be aware, we need to know the truths of God so these lies, these doctrines of demons will be easily exposed!

It is as Paul warned the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:29-30, “**For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.**”

Also, Paul, in I Timothy 4:1 warns us, “**Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.**”

And in II Timothy 3:1-5 Paul warns, “**But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. *And from such people turn away!***”

What are we to do?

Continue walking in the Lord, focus on Him and expose these lies by the Word of God as the Spirit of God leads you in all truth!

Don't ignore or brush aside these apostates, expose them for who they are and what they are doing and remove them from the church!

Paul makes that point in Romans 16:17-18 when he wrote, “**Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.**”

We are to avoid these apostates, not let them in the church! But the problem is as Newell tells us, ***“Mad dogs are shot; infectious diseases are quarantined; but evil teachers who would divide to their destruction and draw away the saints with teaching contrary to the doctrine of Christ and His Apostles are everywhere tolerated!”***

How true that is!

My pastor summed it up like this in regard to what Paul is saying here. He wrote,

Instead of preaching the truth, these men spread their own religious propaganda, using deceit and clever speeches. We have the same problem today, and Christians must beware of false teachers. They come to your front door with magazines, books, and tapes, trying to convince you that they are teaching the truth. Paul gives two instructions: mark them (identify them) and avoid them.

It is a matter of obedience to the Lord and testimony to others. The issue is not making or keeping friends but pleasing the Lord and maintaining a consistent testimony. Romans 16:20 suggests that these false teachers really come from Satan, and one day even he shall be completely defeated.

- Pastor Phil Ballmaier, Romans 16

Wise words. In other words, what we are to do is – ***LOOK AT THEIR FRUIT!*** See what they are doing and what they are saying and how this all lines up with the Word of God. If it doesn't, avoid them, don't allow them in the church!

But it is easy to be overwhelmed by all these things and thus, Jude deals with that next, - ***BUILD YOURSELF UP!***

VERSE 20

As we have seen, there is this battle between the light and the darkness, between the children of God and these apostates and what can we do about it?

What is interesting is that Jude does not tell us to go out and attack these apostates, these men who are a danger to the church!

What does He tell us to do?

He tells us to focus on the Lord, focus on our walk, help others that have been affected by these apostates!

God will take care of them, you need to – ***BUILD YOURSELF UP!***

And really, the first point is building yourself up in the faith as we will see.

We need to stay focused on the Lord!

But how do we do that?

Jude gives us four ways. Two of those ways are seen here in Jude 1:20 and we will pick up the other two as we read on.

But these four points that Jude gives us to stand strong and grow in the Lord are important to apply to our lives.

The first is - ***BUILDING YOURSELF UP IN THE FAITH!***

This is not speaking of our faith but ***THE FAITH*** or what Jude has been speaking about, the faith that we are to contend for!

Make no mistake about it, Satan knows that the quickest way to defeat the local church is to destroy the foundation upon which it is built!

Remember what we are told in Psalm 11:3, **“If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”**

How true that is and keep in mind, as Paul reminds us, that **“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”** Ephesians 2:20-22.

The foundation that he is speaking of is the Word of God. It is what we base our faith upon, and it is the faith we are contending for!

And Satan is smart. What does Satan do? He attacks the Word of God or waters it down!

What should we do?

We are to keep growing in the Lord, study His Word and apply it to your life as you walk with Him!

If you don't, then you are going to be tossed to and fro by the winds of false doctrine that will blow through the church!

That is how we build ourselves up in the faith. We read the Word of God. We study the Word of God as we listen to sermons or other Bible teachings, we meditate upon the Word of God, we memorize the Word of God.

We fill our physical bodies with all kinds of food, it is time we build up our spiritual bodies with the Word of God!

And this is so important for us if we are going to stand strong in the day's we are living in.

William MacDonald sums it up like this for us. He wrote, *“The Word of God is certainly central in spiritual growth. I have yet to meet a strong, fruitful Christian who ignores his Bible. We must daily spend devotional time in the Word, seeking the mind of God. We must also study the Word regularly, in a disciplined way, so that we better understand what it teaches. The gifted Chinese preacher, Watchman Nee, used to read through the New Testament once a month. This becomes apparent when you read his books, for you are struck with his wonderful insights into God’s Word. The members of the Chinese church used to have a saying, ‘No Bible - no breakfast!’ If we followed that motto in America, I wonder how many Christians would go hungry.”*

And if you still are not sure of the importance of God’s Word, that it can build us up, listen to what Paul said in Acts 20:32 to the Ephesian elders, **“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”**

The Amplified Bible puts that verse like this, **“And now [brethren], I commit you to God [I deposit you in His charge, entrusting you to His protection and care]. And I commend you to the Word of His grace [to the commands and counsels and promises of His unmerited favor]. It is able to build you up and to give you [your rightful] inheritance among all God’s set-apart ones (those consecrated, purified, and transformed of soul).”**

God’s Word is there to build us up!

The second point is - ***PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT!***

Here Jude is speaking of spending time in fellowship with God and being sensitive to the Spirit’s leading as you pray.

Let God speak to you, guide you and expose the false teaching that you may have encountered.

We are all responsible for exposing false teaching and especially pastors!

One writer share's this with us. He wrote, "***Evangelist Billy Sunday used to give his converts three rules for success in the Christian life. Each day they were to read the Bible and let God talk to them. They were to pray; in other words, they were to talk to God. And they were to witness and talk to others about God. It would be difficult to improve on those rules.***"

True prayer is simply talking to your Heavenly Father from the heart, as a child would talk to their loving earthly father.

And remember that true prayer in the Holy Spirit is not about getting *our* will done in heaven, it's about getting *God's* will done on earth!

As we read on, we will look at – **LOOK AT OUR FRUIT!**

In other words, what is manifested in our life as we walk in the Spirit. And in this we will see the other two points of how we can be strong in the Lord, how we can – **BUILD OURSELVES UP IN THE FAITH!**

VERSES 21-23

Now when Jude says, "**keep yourself in the love of God**" please understand that he didn't say, "***Keep yourself saved!***"

I know, some like to do that. You have to keep working, trying harder and if you make it to the end, you will have eternal life.

If that were true, none of us would make it. How hard do we have to try? How much work do we need to do? Nobody knows because good works will not get us into heaven. And if it could, none of us would know until we died. But the Bible tells us we can know, we can have assurance of our salvation because it is based in the finished work of Jesus and not upon us!

In fact, Jude already told us we are secure in Christ when he wrote that we are **“preserved in Christ Jesus.”** Jude 1:1.

Then what does Jude mean when he says that we are to be – ***KEEPING YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD!***

This third point can be tricky, but I don't think it has to be.

First of all, are we trying to get God to love us more?

Not at all because He can't love us any more than He does, nor can He love us any less!

Then what is his point?

Jude is talking about walking where God is walking. We are blessed as we are obedient to the Lord!

You see, God is pouring out His blessings, and thus, stay under the spout where the blessings come out!

As we obey the Lord, as we walk with Him, He can demonstrate His love for us in tangible ways.

Let me give you this example and you will see what I mean.

When my children were young, I loved them no matter what they did. They were my children!

Think about that. When my children were bad, did I stop loving them? No, absolutely not! My love for them was unconditional because, again, they were my children!

The problem came when they were disobedient. My love for them did not stop, but I could not bless them for their bad behavior. I could not take them to the movies for instance if they were bad. I did not reward bad behavior!

Make no mistake, I wanted to bless them, I just could not bless them because of their behavior. My love did not change, but the blessings that they would have received were held back because they broke the rules that Julie and I had set forth.

Our heavenly Father does the same with us. He wants to bless His children, but those blessings come as we are obedient to Him!

Does that make sense?

I hope so. It is not that God loves us less, but we miss out on the blessings when we disobey the Lord.

God does not say, *“If you do this, I will love you more!”* Not at all! His love for us is unconditional, but, like I have said, we can miss out on the blessings He has for us as we walk in disobedience!

And what we are seeing is that Jude is admonishing us to keep living our lives in obedience to what God has said, so that He can demonstrate His love for us in tangible ways.

And the fourth point is - ***LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD!***

In other words, expecting his return, looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The word that is translated for **“looking”** in Jude 1:21 speaks of *“earnestly expecting”* or *“anxiously waiting for”* and carries with it the idea of *“looking diligently and vigilantly for the coming of the Lord Jesus with great expectation.”*

I believe Jude is speaking about the Rapture and that we should be looking for His return for His Bride, the Church!

Paul wrote that in Titus 2:13, “**looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**”

Jude uses the phrase “**the mercy**” regarding the Lord’s return and Paul uses the “**blessed hope**” but both are speaking of the same thing. The Rapture of the Church before the judgment of God is poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

And when Jude speaks of “**eternal life**” he is not just speaking of what we have when we are saved, but the culmination of all that as we are taken home to be with the Lord! It is the redemption of these bodies of flesh as our spirit and soul receive a new body, an eternal body!

Thus, in the midst of the apostasy, in the midst of apostates, when things are looking very dark, very black, like there is no hope, we have hope in the coming of the Lord for us.

It is a hope that is based in the truths of God found in the Word of God. That means we can have complete confidence that what God has promised He is more than able to bring to pass!

I think it is important to apply these four things in our lives if we want to be built up in the faith. We are to –

BUILD YOURSELF UP IN THE FAITH!

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT!

KEEP YOURSELF IN THE LOVE OF GOD!

LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD!

Apply these four things in your life and you will not be disappointed! It will keep you from stumbling!

That is how we do it!

And as we build ourselves up in the faith, we see what God is doing on the inside manifested outwardly, in the things that we do and the things that we say – ***THE FRUIT!***

Listen again to what Jude said here in Jude 1:22-23, “**And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**”

What is Jude speaking of here?

He is talking about how we deal with those who have been influenced by these apostates. Witnessing or bringing the Gospel message to the lost and being sensitive to how you approach them, according to the Holy Spirit’s guiding!

In other words, you have to make a distinction on how you are going to approach them and that is done as we build up our faith, we pray in the Spirit, we walk where God wants us to walk and we look for His mercy. He will show us, He will guide us as he speaks to our hearts.

For some, we are to have compassion for them.

It is as Paul said in Romans 2:4, “**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**”

Thus, as you share the love of God with them, they come to Christ out of the darkness they were in, being pulled down that path of destruction by these apostates they are now saved out of that!

But others it is fear that causes them to repent of their sins and come to Christ, the fear of God and His coming judgment.

Jonathan Edwards in his sermon, *Sinners in The Hands of An Angry God* used this approach, and many responded by repenting of their sins during this message.

Make no mistake about it, this was a Hell, fire and brimstone message and this is part of what Jonathan Edwards said,

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours.

You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince; and yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment. It is to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to hell the last night; that you were suffered to awake again in this world, after you closed your eyes to sleep.

And there is no other reason to be given, why you have not dropped into hell since you arose in the morning, but that God's hand has held you up.

There is no other reason to be given why you have not gone to hell, since you have sat here in the house of God, provoking his pure eyes by your sinful wicked manner of attending his solemn worship.

Yea, there is nothing else that is to be given as a reason why you do not this very moment drop down into hell.

O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell.

You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder, and you have no interest in any Mediator, and nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment. . . .

- Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in The Hands of An Angry God, pp. 11-12

Yes, that is harsh, but it is the reality, and some are saved with the fear of God, pulling them out of the fire! For others, and most, it is the **LOVE** of God that leads them to repentance!

As we conclude, in Jude 1:24-25, we have this beautiful benediction or blessing as we will see that – ***HE WILL KEEP US FROM STUMBLING!***

VERSES 24-25

Think about all this talk of apostates and their coming judgment and maybe Jude thought that some may wonder if they could lose their salvation, especially young Christians who may not know the Word of God well enough.

So Jude closes with these wonderful words that God is able to keep us, sustain us and one day we will be taken to glory!

I love this and am secure in this. That – ***HE WILL KEEP US FROM STUMBLING!***

Praise God for what He has given to us! What a glorious promise, that Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling, we will make it into heaven, not because of our ability or strength, but because of His and His promise to us!

Again, remember what we read in Jude 1:1, that we are “**preserved in Jesus Christ.**”

You see, even in the midst of these apostates trying to lure us into their lies, God is able to keep us from falling prey to them.

Think about it, He who was able to save us in the first place is more than able to keep us from stumbling down this path.

You see, our victory over the Devil, over the flesh, over apostates and their teaching is found in Jesus.

If we would only look to Him!

It is as John said, **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”** I John 5:4-5.

John tells us it is our faith, and that faith is found in the truths of God found in the Word of God, we can take that to the bank!

But we do need to know the truths of God found in the Word of God or we can get ourselves in trouble, not knowing what is right and what is wrong. Not knowing if we should do something or not. Let me show you what I mean with this story showing you need to be aware of all that is going on. We are told,

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen, shaking frantically with what looked like a wire running from his waist toward the electric kettle.

Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a hand plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places.

Until that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

- Associated Press

I would think the man is still in therapy, every time he hears music, he hits the deck! Now I don't think you can blame her totally, it would seem that he could use some dancing lessons if he looked like he was being electrocuted by his gyrations!

Now, as funny as that is, I hope you see how important it is to know the whole truth before you jump into something because as sure as you think you may be, you can be wrong like this woman! As good as something may sound, it still may be wrong.

And what we see here is that Jude has left us with a beautiful benediction or blessing here in verses 24-25. He gives all glory to God and thus, may we not lose sight of that in the midst of the apostasy that we see growing today in the church.

Yes, the warning is clear, these are dangerous times we are living in, but folks, that should cause us to draw close to God and rest in Him.

Remember, building up the faith, praying in the Spirit, keeping yourself in the love of God and expecting His return!

Again, listen to the warning of Jude, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“For certain men have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).”**

May we heed the warning and earnestly contend for the faith that has been delivered to us, that unchanging truth of God found in the Word of God!

As I began to close this morning and we close the book of Jude, listen to these words by J. Vernon McGee. He wrote,

If you want to know the place that Jesus Christ should have in your life, especially in these days of apostasy, here it is in this marvelous benediction.

“Through Jesus Christ our Lord” - He is God. And He is our Lord; He should be the Lord of our lives. Glory should be given to Him. We should glorify Him, tell how great He is, how wonderful He is, how mighty He is and mighty to save.

He is majestic, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is mighty - all power is given unto Him in heaven and in earth. This universe has not slipped from under His control. All authority belongs to Him, and whether you like it or not, you are going to bow the knee to Him someday.

In these days of apostasy, God’s children need to bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ and to try to hold Him up before a gainsaying (“contradictory” and “Christ-denying”) world.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible – Vol. V, p. 875

“Jude’s letter is a survival manual for Christians living in the midst of apostasy. Christians living in such an age should not be surprised by increasing apostasy. Through diligent study of God’s Word, through praying in the Spirit, and through hopefully watching for the Lord’s coming, Christians can confidently reach out to unbelievers with loving concern that they too may be saved.” (John MacArthur)

Make no mistake about it, Jude is a book full of warning, but it closes with supreme confidence in God. Dangerous times should make us trust in a Mighty God!