

Jude

-Like his brother James, Jude was a half brother of the Lord Jesus.

-Jude's real name is Judas, but he is called Jude so that he is not confused with the Judas who betrayed Jesus.

-Like his brother James, Jude did not believe at the beginning that his brother Jesus was God.

-But also like his brother James, Jude finally believed that Jesus was God.

Let's read Jude 1-2

1-Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

2-Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

-Also like his brother James, Jude does not call himself a brother, but rather a slave of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Sometimes Christians are proud of themselves, and are not very humble.

-Even though Jude was Jesus' half brother, he called himself a slave of Christ.

-If we truly understand that Christ has saved us from

eternal death, then we would also call ourselves slaves of Christ.

-Our greatest honor is to do that which our God has called us to do.

-God has called us because He loves us and keeps us.

-What does it mean that God keeps us?

-It means that God will make sure that our faith in Him will continue until completion even though we may have troubles along the way.

-In Luke 22:32, Jesus told Peter that He would pray for him that Peter's faith would not fail.

-Even though Peter denied Christ three times, Jesus kept Peter's faith from failing.

Let's read Jude 3-4

3-Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

4-For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

-While Jude wanted to write about salvation, the Holy Spirit led him to write about faith that has been given to us by God.

-This was because ungodly people had secretly slipped into the churches.

-These days, this is still true, and ungodly people have secretly slipped into many churches.

-These ungodly people are false teachers who teach that the grace of God means that we can sin whenever we want.

-These false teachers also teach that faith in Christ alone is not enough to be saved.

-These ungodly people and false teachers will be punished by God.

-Here is the first example of Israel.

Let's read Jude 5

5-Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

-Even though God saved Israel out of Egypt, many still did not believe in God, and were destroyed.

-A second example is the angels.

Let's read Jude 6

6-And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

-Even though the angels were with God, some rejected God and followed Satan, and are now bound with chains until the day of judgment.

-A third example is Sodom and Gomorrah.

Let's read Jude 7

7-In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

-Even though Lot must have spoken to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, they also rejected God, and are now in the eternal fire.

Let's read Jude 8-9

8-In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.

9-But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

-Ungodly people in the church not only hurt themselves, but reject the authority of the church by speaking evil of them.

-In verse 9 which talks about Moses’ death, the Bible says that God had him buried in Moab (Dt 34).

-For us, it is important to know that the highest angel, Michael, did not fight against Satan, but rather allowed God to do so.

-Nowhere in God’s Word are Christians asked to fight against Satan.

-In God’s Word, we are only told to resist Satan by submitting ourselves to God (James 4:7).

-Rather, like the angel Michael, we allow our God to condemn and rebuke Satan.

-When we teach the Word of God, it is the power of God which is in the Word of God that defeats Satan in the lives of others.

-It is not the work of the Christian to defeat Satan, but rather the work of our God.

Let’s read Jude 10-11

10-Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

11-Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.

-Ungodly people in the church are like animals, and are like Cain who rejected God (Genesis 4).

-These ungodly people are also like Balaam who tried to curse Israel and gain much money (Numbers 22-25 & 31).

-These ungodly people will be destroyed as Korah and his followers were destroyed (Numbers 16).

Let’s read Jude 12-13

12-These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead.

13-They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

-The early Christians often met to eat together.

-These meetings may have been called love feasts.

-There were and still are false leaders which the Word of God calls shepherds who feed only themselves.

-These leaders are like clouds without rain which are good for nothing.

-These leaders are like trees without fruit which are good for nothing.

-These leaders are like wild waves which foam up shame.

-These leaders are like stars which become black.

Let's read Jude 14-15

14-Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones

15-to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

-These words from Enoch are in these verses because God wanted them to be a part of the Word of God.

-These verses teach us that God will surely judge the ungodly.

Let's read Jude 16-18

16-These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

17-But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18-They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

-When we grumble, we are saying that we are not happy with that which God has allowed in our lives.

-When we grumble, we are forgetting that nothing can separate us from God's love no matter what happens.

-When we grumble, we are forgetting that we have the best treasure, the presence of God in our lives.

-False leaders find fault with others and even find fault with God.

-False leaders boast about themselves.

-False leaders also speak well of others only to gain something from them.

-The "last times" are now, and we see many people who follow their own ungodly desires instead of God.

Let's read Jude 19

19-These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

-Whoever divides the Body of Christ is not from God, for the Body of Christ is one.

-These people follow their fleshly desires and do not have the Holy Spirit in their lives.

-At the end of this short letter which teaches us about false leaders and ungodly people, the Lord Jesus through Jude encourages us Christians.

-The first encouragement is for us to strengthen our faith in Christ.

Let's read Jude 20-21

20-But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

21-keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

-Here, the Word of God encourages us to strengthen or build up our faith in Christ.

-The building up of our faith does not happen without our help.

-This is why there is a big difference in Christians.

-Some Christians seem content to live their lives on earth with a small faith in God.

-This is why God through Paul said this to the Corinthians:

-“I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready” (1 Cor 3:2).

-Because the Corinthians were still “baby Christians,” they were only able to drink milk which means that they were only able to understand the simple truths of God.

-Other Christians, however, want to grow in their faith in Christ.

-These Christians are eating the solid food of the truths of God which means that they are learning more and more about God.

-It is sad when Christians initially believe in God, but do not want to grow in their faith.

-Why do Christians not want to grow in their faith?

-Perhaps they are lazy?

-Perhaps they think that their body is more important than their spirit?

-Perhaps they think that the world has more to offer to them than God?

-To not want to grow in your faith in Christ means that you are losing that which God wants to give you here on earth.

-How do we build ourselves up in our faith in Christ?

-By reading and studying often the Word of God.

-By sharing God's truths with others.

-By continually talking with God about everything.

-What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit?

-Some people say that this means to pray in tongues, but this is not true.

-To pray in the Holy Spirit means to allow God to lead us in prayer.

-As we are the children of God, we allow the Spirit of God to lead us in prayer and in life (Romans 8:14).

-And when we do not know what to pray, the Holy Spirit will lead us in prayer and pray for us.

-“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans” (Romans 8:26).

-The second encouragement is for us to reach out to others that they might believe in Christ.

Let's read Jude 22-23

22-Be merciful to those who doubt;

23-save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

-For those who doubt, God asks us to be merciful to them.

-For those who have rejected God and are on the way to eternal fire, God asks us work with them as if we were snatching them from a fire.

Let's read Jude 24-25

24-To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—

25-To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

-One day, our God will present all of us Christians before Him and before all of heaven, and we will be without fault.