

A photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that fills the sky. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright light. The text "Hold On" is written in a white, elegant script font across the middle of the image.

Hold On

Titus 1:1-4, 9

Titus 1:1-4

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; ⁴ To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Hold On!

Since the year 2000 some researches say that 30-40 million “professing” Christians have left the church. Some of those have also left the faith!

This should not surprise us...

*“Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, **paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons...**” 1 Tim. 4:1*

Paul warned in 2 Tim. 2:18 there were those who were actively *“ruining the faith of some...”*

Listen to John's words:

“Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.”

1 John 2:18-19

Hold On!

That message was needed “*in every town*” in Paul’s day
and its needed **now!**

Paul said to Titus...

⁵ *The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town...*⁹ ***holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it. Titus 1:5,9***

1. Hold On to Faith!

The word for faith is used 244 times in the N.T.

⁶ Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” Heb. 11:6

- Faith is Belief with Conviction, persuasion.
- Saves, v. 1, Eph. 2:8-10; John 5:24
- Leads to godliness, v. 1; John 8:32; James 2:18,19,26
- Faith is revealed, v. 3, John 1:31; **16:8**; 17:6
- It is shared, v. 4

2. Hold On to THE Faith!

“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for THE faith of God’s elect...” Titus 1:1

“Holding on to the faithful message...” 1:9

“This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in THE faith” 1:13

The faith is the content of the teaching of the early church.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread & to prayer.” Acts 2:42

2. Hold On to THE Faith!

*³ Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write, appealing to you **to contend for the faith** that was delivered to the saints once for all. ⁴ For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality & denying Jesus Christ, our only Master & Lord.*

Jude 1:3,4

Your faith will be tested!

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The Faith... will be tested!

[1 Timothy 1:2](#) To Timothy, my true son in **the faith**. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

[1 Tim. 1:14](#) & the grace of our Lord overflowed, along with **the faith** & love that are in Christ Jesus.

[1 Tim 1:19](#) having faith & a good conscience, which some have rejected & have shipwrecked the faith. **SOME CHURCH LEADERS will go astray!**

[1 Timothy 3:9](#) holding the mystery of **the faith** with a clear conscience.

[1 Timothy 3:13](#) For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in **the faith** that is in Christ Jesus. **DEACONS serve faithfully ...**

[1 Timothy 4:1](#) **Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, ALL religions go to heaven; Grace is a license to sin; God wants you to be happy (Holy) Jesus is only way!**

[1 Timothy 4:6](#) If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished by the words of **the faith** and the good teaching that you have followed. **PASTOR BE AN EXAMPLE**

[1 Timothy 5:8](#) But if anyone does not provide for his own family, especially for his own household, he has denied **the faith** and is worse than an unbeliever. **DAD BE A GOOD EXAMPLE**

[1 Timothy 6:10](#) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from **the faith** and pierced themselves with many griefs. **MONEY WILL SEEK TO PULL YOU AWAY**

[1 Timothy 6:12](#) Fight the good fight of **the faith**. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you have made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **FIGHT FOR THE FAITH**

[1 Tim. 6:20-21](#) Timothy guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. By professing it, some people have departed from **the faith**. Grace be with you all.