



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 107

## **Keep Yourselfes**

Jude 17-21 (ESV)

*But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

I believe that this passage of Scripture really hits the nail on the head as far as how it is directly connected with what I believe many of us are facing today and the difficulties thereof. Let me explain, the context of this passage of Scripture is someone by the name of Jude who was effectively writing to believers to remind them of the predictions of the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ that there was going to be a time where there would be, "*scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.*" *It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.*"

In fact, I believe that Jude may very well have quoted something directly from Peter in 2 Peter 3:3 (ESV),

*knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.*

I am sure you can also see the direct similarities in the wording here as with our chosen passage of Scripture.

The message that I would like to pull from or rather focus on is sort of two-fold. The first part is that we need to because of these predictions and what we are experiencing connected with the predictions to keep ourselves in the love of God. The next part is where we are waiting for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Jude exhorts the believers who are being confronted with these worldly people that are devoid of the Spirit to build themselves up in their most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit. The reason being is that these worldly people are the way they are because they are devoid of the Spirit. So, to keep oneself in the love of God one would need to counteract that worldly Spiritless behavior by keeping in step with the Spirit by praying in Him.

Now, this is not going to be a message about praying in tongues, although praying in tongues is good as long as one is not trying to preach in tongues without interpretation. But tongues as a prayer before you and God can work effectively in you by edifying you (1 Corinthians 14) and is a help to keep you in the love of God. However, as mentioned this is not a message on tongues so if you are looking for more answers on the subject feel free to reach out to us or seek other teachings on the matter.

Moving forward, as we touched briefly on tongues in prayer, we can also say that praying in the Spirit can also be praying filled with the Spirit and under His direct influence, inspiration, and direction. After all, wouldn't you agree that praying under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit would make one's prayers pretty effective at keeping them in the love of God? Of course, right?

The real need to be kept in the love of God while these scoffers and worldly people devoid of the Spirit are running amuck is some serious business. I don't know if you are like me. But, I have to be completely honest here. I have had to recently deal with a whole lot of worldly people who are definitely devoid of the Spirit. I tell you the truth, trying to figure out the things they do and say will drive one to the brink of insanity. I mean, wow! What in the world are some people thinking today? It makes no common sense. What some of these scoffers are saying and doing and how they are conducting business is so blatantly godless it could very easily develop in us as believers a root of bitterness and anger that could lead us directly away from the love of God if we are not careful.

I tell you, lately, I have felt very much in touch with what Jude and Peter are saying about the scoffers. It was also necessary for Jude and Peter to remind the believers to pray in the Holy Spirit because of the difficulty of scoffers and the temptation to fight fire with fire if you will. I am sure you are tracking with me here. To keep in the love of God has been a very grueling process and one that requires continual prayer in the Holy Spirit. Praise God for His faithfulness!

The next part of this message was to wait for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, I have been very much in touch with this as well. Let me explain. Waiting for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ is best understood by knowing that when Jesus returns for our salvation as believers that this means judgment

for the world and the scoffers therein. Now, I am not rejoicing in that, for I would that all come to know Jesus before the day He returns, but I am rejoicing in my receipt of His mercy. However, it is important to understand what I believe is meant here. I believe what is meant is that we are simply not to take matters into our own hands but leave it to the wrath of God. In short, our mercy means wrath for the world.

So it is brothers and sisters that we are to, through the Holy Spirit pray to be kept in the love of God and also to persevere till the day He returns. Let me tell you the flesh is weak but the Spirit is willing. Therefore, we must encourage one another to love without reservation as Jesus did.

I did a teaching on Barabbas not long ago called "*freedom in forgiveness.*" (if you want to review it copy and paste this link, <https://gem.godaddy.com/s/564ad11>)

In that teaching, I discussed how Barabbas a known criminal was let go and Jesus an innocent man placed on the cross. We all know the story, Jesus while hanging on the cross says, "*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" (Luke 23:34)

Jesus by and through His example and empowered by the Spirit (Prayer in Gethsemane-Matthew 26:41) was kept in the love of God and waited for the mercy by entrusting His soul to the Father who alone judges justly (1 Peter 2:23).

Now to us. We are at this moment going through things that I am sure none of us dared to dream of and will go through much more. But what should our response be in the face of such worldly people devoid of the Spirit? These scoffers are those who cause divisions and chaos and destruction, sometimes in their own lives as well as their neighbors. Trust me, I am experiencing some of this as I write this message. But again, let me reiterate the question. What should our response be in the face of such worldly people devoid of the Spirit?

Well, very simply and truly, Jude tells us what should be done in Jude 20-21,

*"building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.*

As we learned through some of the other examples in Scripture (which I encourage you to read all scriptures mentioned in this message) we are shown by the example Jesus gave when He prayed and was empowered by the Holy

Spirit to endure the cross that was before Him and did so with a heart full of forgiveness and trust in the Father's timing for His just judgment.

I wonder, are you waiting for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ and keeping yourselves in the love of God? Or are you taking matters into your own hands?

I will leave you with a powerful illustration of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:36-46. Here Jesus tells Peter and the sons of Zebedee (v:37) to come with Him when He went a little farther from the rest of the disciples to pray. Jesus went ahead and began praying in great anguish. When He returned He found them asleep and said to Peter, (v:40-41) *“So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Here is the powerful illustration. Peter fell asleep and did not pray in the Holy Spirit and later cut off someone's ear (John 18:10) when they tried to arrest Jesus. Jesus hung on the cross and said, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*

Brothers and sisters, what we are going through and are about to go through could be the biggest witness for Christ granted we are kept in the love of God and wait for His mercy. I encourage you then, build yourselves up in your most holy faith, for the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. God bless you all, we love you.

If you want to check out this teaching in video form click the green button below that says 'Click Here For Video Version,' and you will be taken to our YouTube channel.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc

[Click Here For Video Version](#)



[Like](#) [Tweet](#)

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®