

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

*“Standing, Believing, and Walking with God Until Jesus Christ”*

Foundational Text: Jude 1:1-25

Contend: *to struggle, fight, or defend intensely*

This Bible study was built for the times we are living in right now. Rooted in **Jude** and strengthened by **2 Peter**, it reminds us that faith is not something we quietly hold in our hearts while the world unravels around us — it is something we are called to **stand on, walk out, and contend for**. In a culture where truth is being softened, grace is being misused, and righteousness is often treated as optional, this lesson calls believers back to godliness — not as religious appearance, but as God-likeness lived through obedience, conviction, and daily surrender.

We are challenged to recognize that standing for righteousness will come with pressure, misunderstanding, and sometimes loss, yet we are never standing alone. God has already given us everything we need to live faithfully, and He is actively keeping us as we endure. This study is not about being loud or confrontational — it is about being **faithful**, settled in truth, and committed to walking by faith until the day of Jesus Christ.

## I – The Urgency of the Faith (Jude 1:1-4)

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly **contend for the faith** which was **once (not evolving, not-negotiable, not customizable) delivered** unto the saints.” *Jude 1:3*

Why the urgency? *Jude 1:4* ---- “For there are certain men crept in unawares...” – danger **within** the church. They come to trouble you, pervert the Gospel of Christ, and cause you to turn away. **Galatians 1:6-9** (*there is no other Gospel*); **1 Timothy 6:12 MSG** (*run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life you were called to*);

**NOTE:** Peter, in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter warns the church of an internal attack – through complacency and heresy. **2 Peter 2:1 NIV** (*But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies (beliefs, doctrines that contradict the established teachings passed down from foundational texts and the Apostles’ teaching) denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

## II – The Pattern of Apostasy (Jude 1:5-11)

Jude reminds believers that **God judges unbelief**, even among those who once experienced deliverance. Examples: (1) Israel in the wilderness – delivered but did not believe (*Numbers 14:22-23*); (2) Fallen angels – rebellion against God’s order; (3) Sodom and Gomorrah – Moral perversion that was “normalized” – **Past experience with God doesn’t replace present obedience. Other references: Hebrews 3:12, Romans 1:24-28, Isaiah 5:20 >calling evil good**

### III – The Duty to Fight for God’s Truth (Jude 1:17-23) [How We Are To Live]

**Jude 1:20-21 KJV** (*But ye, beloved, **building up yourselves** on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*)

**Romans 10:17** – *So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. – **Be intentional about your growth.*** **Ephesians 6:18** – *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...* **John 15:9-10** *abide (don’t drift), continue ye in my love;* **James 1:22** **Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. You shall be blessed as a doer of the work (James 1:25).**

***Faith Is Not Just Believed—It Is LIVED OUT LOUD!***

- **2 Corinthians 5:7** – *Walk by faith, not sight*
- **Habakkuk 2:4** – *The just shall live by faith*
- **Matthew 24:13** – *Endure to the end*
- **Matthew 5:16** – *Let your light so shine*
- **Joshua 24:15** – *Choose this day whom ye will serve*

**Faith today will cost – approvals, invitations, platforms, relationships**

**Final thought:**

**God is able to keep you (Jude 1:24-25).** Our confidence is not in our grip on God – but His grip on us. Our weapons are not carnal, they are **mighty through God** to the pulling down (*the overthrow and destruction*) of strongholds. Stand in faith: refute arguments *and* theories *and* reasonings *and* every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the (true) knowledge of God; and (2 Corinthians 10:5-6 AMP) we lead every thought *and* purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ. Being in readiness to punish every [insubordinate for his] disobedience, when your own submission *and* obedience [as a church] are fully secured *and* complete. **The same God who calls us to stand empowers us to remain standing.**