

The brief book of Jude carries a heavy weight. In his letter, Jude urgently addresses the arrival of false influencers who've made their way into the church. He combats the efforts of these charlatans as he calls upon the church to galvanize their theology by "contending for the faith".

Jude 1

Contend for the Faith

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life is full of things that distract us from our faith. Because the enemy is cunning and evil, he will stop at nothing to draw us away from the Lord. Our flesh and the world present other struggles as well. In all this, it becomes more evident that if we are to walk well and guard ourselves from the enemy's attacks, we mustn't be passive in our walk with the Lord.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT do you think are some of Satan's best tools of deception?

HOW have you seen Christians pulled off course from their walk with Christ?

HOW have you seen deception from within a family, business, or church body cause destruction upon God's people?

WHAT are some ways we, as a body of believers, can work to guard ourselves from ungodly influences within our church community?

Jude 1

Contend for the Faith

Read Jude 1

OBSERVATION

How did Jude feel about writing to his audience (vs. 3)?

What does he choose to focus upon in writing his letter and why, according to vs. 3-4?

In vs. 5-11 Jude references numerous Old Testament experiences in an effort to make his point. What stories does he remind his audience of?

In vs. 12-13 Jude describes those who are deceptive in a series of metaphors. Identify each metaphor presented in these verses.

What does Jude call his audience to remember in vs. 17-19?

According to vs. 20-23, Jude gives 6-7 different imperatives to those he is writing. What are they, specifically?

INTERPRETATION

Why do you think Jude found it necessary to write about “contending for the faith” rather than “common salvation”, as he was originally going to do?

As Jude references the Old Testament stories in vs. 5-11, consider the concern and heart issue of each:

Jesus saving a people from Egypt, destroying those who did not believe vs. 5 (Exodus 14)

The Indulgence of sexual immorality at Sodom and Gomorrah vs. 7-8 (Genesis 19)

The way of Cain in vs. 11 (Genesis 4:1-8, Hebrews 11:4)

The sake of Balaam’s gain in vs. 11 (Numbers 22)

Korah’s rebellion in vs. 11 (Numbers 16)

How do the metaphors listed in vs. 12-13 appropriately reflect the dangers of these false ideas?

In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul calls Timothy to remember the times in a similar manner as Jude. How does remembering better equip us to be able to contend for the faith?

APPLICATION

In vs. 20-23, note the imperatives Jude lists and describe one way we can specifically achieve them. Consider:

“Building yourselves up in the faith”

“Keeping yourselves in the love of God”

“Having mercy on those who doubt”

“Hating even a garment stained by the flesh”