

Sermon Follow-up — August 2, 2020 — Jude

Sermon Recap:

We love to fight, but are we fighting for our faith and the truth of God's word? We must contend for the faith (v.3)! How do we contend for the faith?

1. Know the opponent

In the case of Jude, the opponent is false teachers who have crept into the church unnoticed (v.4.) Who is behind the false teachers? Satan himself! His scheme is the deception and distortion of all that God says (dating back to Genesis 1) When we listen to these lies, we begin to live in ways other than how we were intended to live by God. These false teachers and voices are boastful and blasphemous. They breed bitterness. We must ask if the words we are hearing are really true and consistent with God's word.

2. Choose your weapons (v.20)

The sword of the Spirit is the Bible! Scripture teaches us that the Bible is used to fight Satan (Matthew 4). The Bible shields us from deceit and shows us what is true. We can wield this weapon by being in the Word. When we are in the word and the word is in us, we will become competent and confident in teaching and sharing the Word of God. We will be equipped to recognize and contend for the faith.

Our second weapon is to pray. Jesus himself prayed in his moments of deepest agony and trial. If our savior used prayer, we should as well. When we are anxious, prayer brings peace. When hurting, prayer will bring healing. When scared, prayer will bring strength. When confident, prayer will bring humility.

3. Remember our Commander

God is our Commander. Jude teaches us that we are loved by God (beloved is used 4 times.) We can keep ourselves within the Love of God through our salvation. We can contend for the faith because Jesus contends for us.

Application:

1. What is Jude referring to when he writes, "contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3)?
2. In the passage we learn there will be situations or people who may cause us to be distracted from our faith. What voices or situations tend to distract you from your faith?
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any ways in which you are "perverting the grace of our God into sensuality and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:4).
4. Do you need to repent of any of the sins listed in Jude 1:16 ... Being a grumbler, malcontent, following your own sinful desires; loud-mouthed boaster, showing favoritism to gain advantage?
5. One of the hardest things for a church to do is to confront unrepentant sin in the church. How do you see Jude's teaching applying to the church?
6. Can you share a Bible passage you turn to in times of trouble or uncertainty? Will you commit to **The 7-by-7 Challenge** — Spending 7 minutes a day reading the Word for 7 days a week?