

BOOK OF JUDE

- Jude 1-3 Introductory Statements
 - a. v.1 - God's Responsibility
 - b. v.2 - Our Responsibility
- Jude 4-7 Warning of False Teachers and False Teachings
- Jude 8-13 Overall View of Falling Away
- Jude 14-16 God's Judgment Against False Teachings
- Jude 17-23 Our Defense Against False Teaching
- Jude 24-25 Closing (God's Power to Keep Us)

Historical Background:

Jude is a parallel book with 2 Peter.

Jude wrote about unbelievers falling away (Jude 4, 10, 19). Peter wrote about the believers falling away. (2 Peter 2:1 15, 20).

Even though Jude and 2 Peter are focused on different groups of people, they are the same in the area of falling away, and how false teachers deceive people.

*Satan brings the deception for both believer and unbeliever.

2 Peter tells about the day of falling away coming in the future....(more of a prophecy). Jude tells us that the people he is writing to are already in the middle of the day of falling away.

2 Peter was written about 61-65 AD. The book of Jude was written around 66 A.D. (only a few years later).

Jude 1 From Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James...

Servant – "*doulos*" = love slave, the person chose to serve, they were not forced to serve.

1. Wording is important. Most scholars believe Jude was the half brother of Jesus.

Matthew 13:55 He is just the son of a carpenter. His mother is Mary, and his brothers are James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. (Judas = Jude).

Mark 6:3 He is just the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters are here with us." So the people were upset with Jesus.

2. Jude did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection.

3. It seems like Jude did not try to make his writings more important by bragging that Jesus was his brother. Jude wanted the letter to have power through spiritual ways.

...**brother of James** - Jude does identify himself with the pastor of the Jerusalem Church. This is not the son of Zebedee (Matthew 4:21). Not James the son of Alphaeus Luke 24:10). This James was the son of Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Galatians 1:19).

Jude 1 ...To all who have been called by God. God the Father loves you, and you have been kept safe in Jesus Christ:

...**kept safe**... *tēreō* = to guard, keep eye upon, to protect

1. Jude declares that the believer is set apart from this world (called/sanctified) and guarded by the ever-watchful eye of God.
2. This encouraging word is spoken because of the events that Jude later writes concerning false teachers among them trying to lead them away.
3. He emphasizes God's ability and desire toward them. Later in verse 24, he re-establishes God's keeping power, to "sandwich" the believers trust in God regardless of the attacks or strategies of the enemy.

Jude 2 Mercy, peace, and love be yours richly.

Jude shows our responsibility toward God, and our best way to defend ourselves – let the mercy, peace, and love multiply in you (be yours richly).

In times of trials, and outside pressures coming against the believer, Jude is aware of how our immune systems can be drained. (Immune systems protect the human body from infection and disease. Mercy, peace and love protect our spiritual body from spiritual infection and disease).

2 Peter 1:2 states that grace and peace are multiplied in our lives through the knowledge of God (the Word).

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be given to you more and more, because you truly know God and Jesus our Lord.

...**you truly know**... as we look to God we see that God has everything under control. This is like a peek into the Master Control Room of all heaven and earth. We can easily see the natural world around us with its problems, trials, etc. But we need to let this knowledge control our peace, confidence, and trust. God wants our lives to be controlled by the clear, exact, divine revelation from the One who sees the entire universe. God does not want us to be controlled by only partial, earthly knowledge.

We are supposed to be established (set fast, fixed, strengthened) in the present truth; the teaching of the apostles.

The Word of God in you is either increasing – because you are using it, or it is decreasing – because you are not using it.

Mark 4:23-25 Let those with ears use them and listen! ²⁴ "Think carefully about what you hear. The way you give to others is the way God will give to you, but God will give you even more. ²⁵ Those who have understanding will be given more. But those who do not have understanding, even what they have will be taken away from them."

As we fix our minds and hearts on the Word, our hope, strength, peace, etc. become our focus. Rather than seeing the attack of the devil to distract or destroy us, we see the

greatness of God. When we neglect the Word, our circumstances become what we focus on.

Jude 3 Dear friends, I wanted very much to write you about the salvation we all share. But I felt the need to write you about something else: I want to encourage you to fight hard for the faith that was given the holy people of God once and for all time.

Jude was aware of the “times and seasons.”

1. He remembers the Church growing successfully (Acts 1:15; 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 6:1, 7)
2. He also sees how that great enthusiasm dwindled. Now those who once couldn't wait to go to church were having to be warned to show up!

Hebrews 10:25 You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other...

His original desire was to write about the ...**salvation we all share**..., salvation for both Jews and Gentiles.

He had to change his letter to urge them all to ...**fight hard for the faith**....

fight hard –*epagonizomai* = to struggle, to fight continually even after being knocked down.

1. The idea is to maintain against opposition, to fight for something.
2. We know that God has freely given to all believers a specific amount of faith (Romans 12:3).
3. Jude basically says, “You’ve received freely, now brace yourself (get ready) for the fight to keep your faith!”

the faith - our original faith, belief, conviction, persuasion.

1. This is a battle being fought involving our very foundation in God.
2. Our rights, privileges, position, promises, salvation, eternity, etc. will be, and are being challenged by some enemy in the this life.
3. We will have to realize that this enemy is not “playing around”, but “playing for keeps”, and we better be ready! Jude sees our eternal destinies as the trophy for this fight.

Jude 4 Some people have secretly entered your group. Long ago the prophets wrote about these people who will be judged guilty. They are against God and have changed the grace of our God into a reason for sexual sin. They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

Some people - ungodly, unbelievers, irreverent, wicked

These are unbelievers. ...**They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ...**, and Jude 19 which reveals they ...**do not have the Spirit.** - the Holy Spirit is not in them.

Peter wrote about believers who were acting and living like unbelievers.

2 Peter 2:20-22 They were made free from the evil in the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But if they return to evil things and those things control them, then it is worse for them than it was before. ²¹ Yes, it would be better for them to have never known the right way than to know it and to turn away from the holy teaching that was given to them. ²² What they did is like this true saying: "A dog goes back to what it has thrown up," and, "After a pig is washed, it goes back and rolls in the mud."

Jude is clearly talking about unbelievers (Jude 4,10,19)

...**Entered your group...**- settled in alongside, lodged

The agenda of these ungodly people is to slip in alongside of believers, and try to look and act just like believers. Then after the believers accept them, they lead believers away from the Truth.

In Jude 3, we are warned to ...**fight hard for the faith...** That warning is made clearer in Jude 4.

The purpose of these people is to slip into the church, and pervert and corrupt the believers relationship with God, and cause them to lose faith in God. These false teachers are there to pervert what has been provided through Jesus Christ. Therefore, get ready to "fight the good fight of faith." (1 Timothy 6:12)

... **Long ago the prophets wrote about these people who will be judged guilty...**

This is not speaking of being predestined to Hell as some teach.

"*prographo*" - pro = before/grapho = to write

Spoken of earlier or before this moment by others - Old Testament prophets.

Zechariah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and the four gospels warns of the events of the Last Days and the apostasy that would occur.

...**They are against God and have changed the grace of our God into a reason for sexual sin...**

...**grace...** - *charis* = benefit, favor, gift, liberality, acceptable(ness), graciousness

... **They also refuse to accept...** - to contradict, disavow, reject

Galatians 5:13 My brothers and sisters, God called you to be free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful self. Serve each other with love.

The apostle Paul warns of using our new found freedoms in Christ as an excuse or license to do works of the flesh. The teaching of "grace" is being perverted where

people are living recklessly, with no fear of God, or consequences. All that a person needs is a “quick fix of confession”, with no real repentance or sorrow. Paul’s warning is to not take the graciousness of God to the limits. Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, declares we should not abuse our Christian liberties. Though lawful, they are not always profitable, or beneficial.

1 Corinthians 6:12 “I am allowed to do all things,” but not all things are good for me to do. “I am allowed to do all things,” but I will not let anything make me its slave.

Certain unbelievers are coming into the church, teaching corrupt doctrines, turning God’s grace into obscene and indecent sexual sins, areas of immorality, and convincing believers that “anything goes.”

Whenever we begin to give opportunity to the flesh, and use grace as a license to sin, the end result is almost always sexual sins.

Apostasy (falling away from God’s perfect way) almost always is connected to sexual sins and perversions.

Today, we battle with government and education wanting us to accept and embrace teachings under the title of “alternative lifestyles.”

This is a process, chipping away at the foundation, eroding the footing. This process occurs over generations, removing standards & absolutes.

Common Traits of False Teachers - Sexual Sins

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons.

2 Timothy 3:5-9 and will act as if they serve God but will not have his power. Stay away from those people. ⁶ Some of them go into homes and get control of silly women who are full of sin and are led by many evil desires. ⁷ These women are always learning new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth fully. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres were against Moses, these people are against the truth. Their thinking has been ruined, and they have failed in trying to follow the faith. ⁹ But they will not be successful in what they do, because as with Jannes and Jambres, everyone will see that they are foolish.

There is always a grain of truth in any false doctrine, so believers will swallow it easier - like a spoon full of sugar with medicine.

They resist the truth by teaching in opposition to the Word doctrines that sound like the truth yet are conflicting. They appeal to the flesh rather than to the human spirit, convincing unlearned or carnal-minded people that theirs is the way to God. The end is disastrous!

They will pass themselves off as “greater apostles,” proclaiming that “God spoke to them directly” and that He is their authority, and no one else. Thus, they challenge all local authorities by their “higher authority.”

These will be accepted as “ministers of righteousness” in some circles.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 because the time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching but will find many more teachers who please them by saying the things they want to hear. ⁴ They will stop listening to the truth and will begin to follow false stories.

These false teachers will have pleasing personalities, being very likeable.

Their teachings will be easy to accept, and many will follow them in finding a “religious leader” who says “satisfying the lusts of the flesh is perfectly alright,” giving approval to their carnality.

...They also refuse to accept Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

These false teachers will either directly or indirectly reject Yahweh God.

Direct: atheism, cults, world religions, occults, humanism, New Age.

Indirect: polytheistic lifestyles, compromising lifestyles, etc.

They will deny Jesus in several ways:

1. God in the flesh

2. Virgin birth

3. Calvary Experience

blood shed for the remission of sins

“by His stripes you are healed.”

access gained back to God through Christ’s righteousness

4. Personal, physical return of the Lord

5. Through Christ alone and no other way can one be “born again.”

Jude 5-7 Three illustrations to Remember About Apostasy (falling away from God) and Judgment

Jude 5 The “Exodites” - the Egypt Generation unable to possess the promised land mostly because they did not trust God. They died in the wilderness.

Jude 6 The Fallen Angels - rebellious co-conspirators with Satan (Lucifer), cast down from Heaven, who attempted an overthrow with Lucifer over God.

Jude 7 Sodom and Gomorrah - geographical region overcome by sexual perversions during Abraham’s time.

Jude 5 I want to remind you of some things you already know: Remember that the Lord saved his people by bringing them out of the land of Egypt. But later he destroyed all those who did not believe.

...**the Lord saved his people** - *sozo* = save, deliver, protect, preserve safe from danger or loss.

The meaning here is to “save from”, or “deliver out of.”

...**destroyed all those who did not believe.**

Believe - *pisteuo* = to believe, have faith in, trust, credit.

This was not about salvation. This was about the ability to believe and trust God to honor and keep His promises.

The Exodites were “miracle-numbered” people. They had experienced the escape from the 10 plagues, crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground, had catered meals delivered to their doorstep (manna and quail), enjoyed supernatural air conditioning and heating (pillar of cloud and fire), and wore clothing that did not wear out, and grew with them in size for 40 years. Yet the Exodites - those who came out of Egypt but did not enter Canaan - after experiencing daily miraculous provision by Jehovah Jireh found themselves unable to trust and believe that God was able to perform all He promised!

Israel is living proof that signs and wonders do not automatically cause people to believe. Signs and wonders follow those who do believe.

The Red Sea is a typology (prophetic representation) of salvation. Putting off the “old man”, deliverance from previous lifestyles, etc. The Jordan River, however, is a typology of crossing through to the “promised land” of God’s provision and promises. It is the entering into your inheritance through Christ. Those who “cross over the Jordan” are not crossing over from death to life. That was done at the Red Sea! This crossing involves the maturity process of moving from being a “child” of God, to being a “son” (Greek = *Huios* = full sonship privileges) of God.

Hebrews 3:7-14 (quotes from Psalm 95:7-11) So it is as the Holy Spirit says: “Today listen to what he says. ⁸ Do not be stubborn as in the past when you turned against God, when you tested God in the desert. ⁹ There your ancestors tried me and tested me and saw the things I did for forty years. ¹⁰ I was angry with them. I said, ‘They are not loyal to me and have not understood my ways.’ ¹¹ I was angry and made a promise, ‘They will never enter my rest.’” ¹² So brothers and sisters, be careful that none of you has an evil, unbelieving heart that will turn you away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage each other every day while it is “today.” Help each other so none of you will become hardened because sin has tricked you. ¹⁴ We all share in Christ if we keep till the end the sure faith we had in the beginning.

Jude 6 And remember the angels who did not keep their place of power but left their proper home. The Lord has kept these angels in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day.

God gave grace before judgment and destruction came:

Fallen Angels - the time frame jumps from the angelic state when they were given a “once and for all” choice to follow God or Lucifer, to the time span just before the Noah’s Flood. The 120-year span before the Flood, and the involvement of men with these angels, is the particular period of “grace” to be dealt with in Jude. (Noah’s time / representing the angelic state).

This example of apostasy deals with angelic rebels who joined forces with Lucifer.

It appears that angels were given a will also. (the ability to choose)

God apparently gave the angels a “once and for all” opportunity to decide whom they would follow - God or Lucifer.

In their rebellious mutiny attempt, Lucifer, and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven. (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)

When God created Adam, Satan (Lucifer in heaven) and the angels were already inhabiting the earth.

Although the scriptures do not plainly state all the ingredients of Satan’s twisted schemes directed toward God, and His eternal plans; there are implied “pieces of the perverted puzzle.” One of these areas is referred to in Genesis 3:15.

Genesis 3:15 I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. One of her descendants will crush your head, and you will bite his heel.”

The descendant of the woman (Jesus) is now declared by God to be the future “head-bruise” of Satan. Satan would now attempt to do everything within his ability to stop, hinder, or restrain this “head-bruise” from being born. It makes sense that Satan would try to stop all ways that this One could gain entrance into this world - including the corruption of the genealogy line of the human race He would have to come through. After all, if the descendant became corrupted in any way, it cannot fulfill God’s requirements for redemptive purposes. If Satan can stop the purity of the descendant, he will never get his head “bruised” because of a technical disqualification.

The next question in Satan’s possible game plan in trying to cover all the bases is HOW do you corrupt the lineage of this “Woman’s Descendant”? (You must attack every potential line - the whole human race!

Genesis 6:1-4 The number of people on earth began to grow, and daughters were born to them. ²When the sons of God saw that these girls were beautiful, they married any of them they chose. ³The Lord said, “My Spirit will not remain in human beings forever, because they are flesh. They will live only 120 years.” ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also later. That was when the sons of God had sexual relations with the daughters of human beings. These women gave birth to children, who became famous and were the mighty warriors of long ago.

...**sons of God**... angels.

Job 38:4 Where were you when I made the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand.

Job 38:7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels [sons of God] shouted with joy?

All angels recorded in the Bible are ADULT MALES in appearance.

Genesis 6:2 says the sons of God (angels) took wives for themselves from human women. The question arises of HOW could this be possible for angelic beings to have sexual intercourse with human beings.

... **the angels who did not keep their place of power but left their proper home....**

These angels didn't keep their own territory, their assigned region of the universe, but left their ...**place of power**..., and took a bodily form different than their spiritual ones.

Genesis 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also later. That was when the sons of God had sexual relations with the daughters of human beings. These women gave birth to children, who became famous and were the mighty warriors of long ago.

...**Nephilim**... are people who are large and strong. Sometimes called "giants."

Goliath and his brothers, as well as Og, king of Bashan were Nephilim (giants).

These giants were violent tribes oppressing entire nations.

Where did these giants come from? Offspring of the Sons of God and the daughters of men! (Genesis 6:4)

Genesis 6:5 The Lord saw that the human beings on the earth were very wicked and that everything they thought about was evil.

Genesis 6:8 But Noah pleased the Lord.

... **The Lord has kept these angels in darkness, bound with everlasting chains, to be judged on the great day.**

...**kept**... to guard, keep an eye on, to prevent escaping, detain

...everlasting... without end, perpetual (different than 'eternal' in the sense that 'eternal' lends itself to without beginning or end; whereas 'everlasting' focuses more toward a beginning but not having an end.)

...**bound**... - to bind, to place in bonds or imprisonment for the sake of the gospel.

...**darkness**... - foggy weather, smoke. The thick darkness associated with the region of those who are lost, the darkness of *Gehenna* or *Tartarus* (hell).

QUESTION: "What happened to the angels/sons of God who left their proper home and intermingled with the daughters of men?"

1. Since they are created angelic beings, they do not die of old age like humans.

2. Genesis 6:4 says that the children of these angels existed *before and after* the Flood, revealing this angelic 'activity' was not destroyed by the Flood. These supernatural beings were not affected physically (death) as "flesh" was on the earth.
3. Since these angels cannot die, a divine sentencing was placed upon them by God due to their part in this unique covert attempt at polluting the lineage of the Seed who would bruise the Serpent's head.
4. **2 Peter 2:4** When angels sinned, God did not let them go free without punishment. He sent them to hell and put them in caves of darkness where they are being held for judgment.
 - a. Although the "sin" is not mentioned here, it is revealed in Jude 6-7, and Genesis 6:1-4 states that there was an additional sin besides the one in heaven.
 - b. Lucifer was cast down to the earth, NOT HELL, as his initial punishment. He will later be cast into hell, and finally the lake of fire as his final punishment. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Job 1:6-7; Revelation 20).

Jude 7 Also remember the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other towns around them. In the same way they were full of sexual sin and people who desired sexual relations that God does not allow. They suffer the punishment of eternal fire, as an example for all to see.

God gave grace before judgment and destruction came:

Sodom and Gomorrah - God sent angels to preach to them the need of repentance (normally human messengers of this truth are given to the saints). Secondly, they were so wicked, God even permitted the intercession of Abraham to "convince" Him to spare all of them from mass judgment if "only 10 righteous" people could be found in the area! [Genesis 18:32] (Abraham's time/represent unbelievers)

What events, actions, occurrences are common to both the period of time with Noah, and the time of Abraham? It is the similarity of fallen angels going after the "strange flesh" of mankind, and the people of Sodom acting in "like manner" - pursuing "strange flesh" to them.

...**sexual relations that God does not allow**... - another of a different kind (altered, unequally yoked)

God's teaching from the beginning has been that man take a woman for companionship. All other creatures were determined to be an unsuitable wife for him (Genesis 2:18-25). There was innocence in all of their relationship with one another - including sexual. Sexual relationship within the limits of a marriage covenant has God's approval, and His blessings as well.

God declares, however, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, bestiality are abominations in His sight (Leviticus 20:10-22)

...**sexual relations that God does not allow**... can mean any sexual relationship outside the boundaries of a husband and wife.

Apostasy (falling away from God) begins to happen when people turn away from God, and they begin to twist grace, using grace as a license to sin.

Jude's reference to Sodom is a reminder that Abraham's day had become so horrible, that society as a whole was embracing all types of sexuality unrestrained, and accepted it as alternative lifestyles. This same pattern will be seen in the last days as well. When a nation/church embraces the acceptance of alternative sexual lifestyles, that nation/church is a breath away from God's judgment. (Leviticus 20:23)

The Church must become bold in our declaration of what God calls sin - regardless of society's acceptance or mockery of purity and holiness.

Hebrews 12:14 Try to live in peace with all people, and try to live free from sin. Anyone whose life is not holy will never see the Lord.

Jude warns us to guard ourselves from getting caught in the undertow of society's standards, and be ready to contend for the faith - even for our very salvation!

Last Days prophecies record both a "falling away" and a great harvest of souls.

God always has a remnant

1. Exodites - Joshua and Caleb
2. Flood - Noah and his family (total of 8)
3. Sodom - Lot and his 2 daughters not married (his wife almost made it)

Jude 8 It is the same with these people who have entered your group. They are guided by dreams and make themselves filthy with sin. They reject God's authority and speak against the angels.

SUMMARY - (Jude 3-7) The final fall of abused grace leads people into sexual sins and perversions whether believer, unbeliever, or angel. Apostasy (turning away from God) is happening among the audience Jude is writing to. He urges them to "...fight hard for the faith...!"

In Jude 8-13, Jude begins to describe the lusts and sins of these unbelieving traitors. A parallel commentary is listed in 2 Peter 2:10-14 concerning apostasy among believers.

...They are guided by dreams and make themselves filthy with sin ... Deceived individuals holding vain and empty opinions, manipulated by continual cruel, lustful thoughts.

1. These are individuals creating in their minds, then dwelling on sexual fantasies.
2. Next, they are acting out, and living out these fantasies to the fullest. Whatever they think of; they then go and do.

...make themselves filthy with sin...

1. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality

2. 2 Peter 2:14 says that apostates allowed sexual perversions to go so far, ...**their desire for sin is never satisfied...**

...**They reject God's authority...** (characteristics and personalities of apostates)

1. These false teachers slip into the Church, and through their teachings and lifestyles they try to lead believers away from God. These apostates are rebellious against all authority figures, whether spiritual or natural. Their agenda is to lead others away from respecting, honoring, and esteeming those over us in life.

2 Peter 2:10 - "...hate authority". These are not afraid to speak evil of authority figures. Irreverent. Disrespectful.

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given to me.

It is important for us to remember that only Jesus has all authority. Every other form of authority whether church or government, is delegated authority.

Our responsibility to submit to these authority figures is not based upon their own personal perfection and "worthiness", but is based upon our understanding that any authority is an extension of Christ's ultimate authority.

When we honor and obey government or church powers over our lives, we honor God.

When we resist and rebel against these same authorities, we are rebelling against God.

EXCEPTION: Any "power" that sets itself in opposition to God, or His teaching must be prayerfully examined, and weighed in light of scripture. If that power demands, requires, obvious disobedience to God, our response should be the same as the apostles in Acts 5:

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles answered, "We must obey God, not human authority!"

Jude 9 Not even the archangel Michael, when he argued with the devil about who would have the body of Moses, dared to judge the devil guilty. Instead, he said, "The Lord punish you."

Michael becomes an example in the unseen world of how dignity and authority works.

This is the only place in the Bible recording this encounter. What is its value? To understand its purpose, we must keep it in the context of Jude's writing.

Michael stood in delegated authority. He did not exercise or flex his own strength, though it is mighty.

Michael (the warring angel) restrained himself and left all judgment and vengeance to God.

Michael showed respect to his adversary's original dignity.

Jude 10 But these people speak against things they do not understand. And what they do know, by feeling, as dumb animals know things, are the very things that destroy them.

...**But**...connects the last verse with the next thought.

...**these people**... Jude is now speaking of the teachers who had fallen away from the truth. Michael became a proper role model of “how to do it”. Now Jude brings us back to the characteristics of ...**these people**... who creep into our midst.

...**speak against**... Their communication is blasphemous. slanderous, vile, disrespectful, and filled with venomous poison.

...**things they do not understand**... They have no knowledge or understanding of respect for authority.

...**And what they do know**... They speak and live from a self-centered, flesh-gratifying viewpoint. They act and respond based upon natural emotions and instincts - not God’s knowledge and word.

1. They brag about having more knowledge and more revelation of spiritual matters. But really these false teachers don’t even have the basic beginning understanding of spiritual things. They are proud of their disrespect and rebellion. Even though both pride and rebellion are obvious violations of scriptural truths.

2. Amazingly, these false teachers are able to persuade many to follow them, regardless of the way they live and speak personally and publicly against God’s anointed leaders. (“Do what I say-Ignore what I do.”)

(How stupid we appear to the world when we make charisma (exciting personality) more important than character!)

...**dumb animals**... They approach life from an unregenerate, animalistic, senses-oriented style. The “Law of the Jungle” is their theme. Godly insight and wisdom is unknown to them. It is not that they are arguing against things they understand, or once embraced. These teachers don’t know the Truth. They are the forerunners to many who are caught up in New Age thinking. They are being deceived themselves, while deceiving others.

Jude 11 It will be terrible for them. They have followed the way of Cain, and for money they have given themselves to doing the wrong that Balaam did. They have fought against God as Korah did, and like Korah, they surely will be destroyed.

... **It will be terrible for them. They have followed the way of Cain**...

...**way**... - “road, progress, route, act, mode, means”

Jude wrote that false teachers are entering the church perverting the gospel, and turning people away from God. These false teachers themselves have rejected God. They are unbelievers (v.4,10,19) contrary to the teachers that Peter writes of in 2 Peter. In v.11 Jude uses three Old Testament characters to reveal the characteristics of these false teachers.

In v.5-7 Jude uses another group of three: Israel, fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah. In v.11, he uses the group of three of Cain (unbeliever), Balaam and Korah (believers). Whereas

each got their followers in different ways, each give us warning as to the variety of ways the believer needs to guard his heart in the Last Days. [Balaam-greed, covetousness, betrayal, stumbling block; Korah-rebellion against authority]

...**The way of Cain**...Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 4:1--Cain, the firstborn of Adam and Eve.

Genesis 4:2--Abel took care of the flocks. Cain became a farmer.

Genesis 4:3--Cain brings an offering (a gift) to the Lord.

1. This was Cain's own choice. He didn't do it because Abel had done it.

2. ...gift... DONATION - present gift, tribute sacrifice (unbloody one) meat offering/cereal offering-Lev.2:1

Genesis 4:4 Abel brought some of the firstborn of his flock.

Genesis 4:4-5 ...The Lord accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵ but he did not accept Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and felt rejected.

Question: Why would God accept one and not the other?

Hebrews 11:4 It was by faith that Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. God said he was pleased with the gifts Abel offered and called Abel a good man because of his faith. Abel died, but through his faith he is still speaking.

Isaiah 1:11-17 ... The Lord says, "I do not want all these sacrifices." .verse 13 ..."Don't continue bringing me worthless sacrifices!"

verse 16 "Wash yourselves and make yourselves clean..." - If your heart and motive is not right, your sacrifice isn't either!"

The sacrifice was accepted for the man, and not the man for the sacrifice!

Proverbs 12:2 The Lord is pleased with a good person, but he will punish anyone who plans evil.

Proverbs 15:8 ...The Lord hates the sacrifice that the wicked offer, but he likes the prayers of honest people....

2 Corinthians. 8:1-5, 11-12 - Attitude of giving of Macedonians. They gave willingly.

ABEL'S SACRIFICE WAS ONE OF FAITH--- GOD SAW THE HEART!

Question: Why would God accept Abel's offering?

best parts vs. donation - God is first and requires to be honored and worshipped with the best parts of ALL our increase!

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your wealth and the firstfruits from all your crops.
¹⁰ Then your barns will be full, and your wine barrels will overflow with new wine.

Firstborn belong to God (Exodus 13:2, 12, 13)

First of the firstfruits belong to God (Exodus 23:19)

All devoted things holy to God (Leviticus 27:28-32)

ABEL gave God the best of the best, CAIN gave a donation of his choosing!

Question: Was Abel's sacrifice accepted because it was "blood"?

Hebrews 12:24 ...you have come to the sprinkled blood that has a better message than the blood of Abel.

The blood of Abel is Abel's shed blood, dying because of his faith that becomes a witness and testimony. Yet it cannot compare to Christ's shed blood! (Matthew 23:34-35; Luke 11:49-52)

Genesis 4:5-7 Cain becomes angry/wounded pride/envy/anger – God's counsel -- ...**If you do things well, I will accept you...**

God gives opportunity to make it right - GRACE.

Genesis 4:8-15 Cain does not repent, but gets revenge.

His hatred of Abel's sacrifice being accepted and not his moves to hatred and finally MURDER

Question: "Is there any other purpose to the blood sacrifice of Abel? YES!

Hebrews 9:22 ...sins cannot be forgiven without blood...

A foreshadowing of what is necessary to obtain forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:13,14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a cow are sprinkled on the people who are unclean, and this makes their bodies clean again. ¹⁴ How much more is done by the blood of Christ. He offered himself through the eternal Spirit as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will make our consciences pure from useless acts so we may serve the living God.

The blood of animals could only postpone the punishment for your sins. The blood of Jesus washed your sins away.

... **They have fought against God as Korah did, and like Korah, they surely will be destroyed...**

Numbers 16:1-50

Numbers 16:1 Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On turned against Moses. (Korah was the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi; Dathan and Abiram were brothers, the sons of Eliab; and On was the son of Peleth; Dathan, Abiram, and On were from the tribe of Reuben.)

Korah - Levite related as distant cousin of Moses and Aaron (Kohathites)

Dathan and Abiram and On - Reubenites (firstborn of Jacob/Israel)

Dathan, Abiram and On were offended because the birthright (double blessing portion, position, and rulership) should have been given to their ancestor, Reuben. But instead, it was given to Joseph. See Genesis 46:8,9; 49:4, 9, 10; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2; Genesis 35:22.

Korah wanted more power - greater than what God had already given him. Perhaps Korah felt he was living far below his potential.

3 tribes made up the Levites - Kohath, Gershon, Merari

Exodus.6:18 - sons of Kohath---Amram (Moses, Aaron) Izhar (Korah) Hebron, Uzziel,

Korah was born into the “wrong family”.

Kohathites ministered closer to the presence of God than the other two groups, yet it still wasn't good enough!

Dathan and Abiram (and On, never mentioned again) were not interested in the spiritual power or position of Aaron, but rather in the authority/leadership of Moses.

Therefore, power hungry individuals whether in the world or in the church join forces over past offenses, jealousies, and desires for promotion outside of God's will.

Numbers 16:2 These men gathered two hundred fifty other Israelite men, well-known leaders chosen by the community, and challenged Moses.

Numbers 16:3...seeing all the congregation are holy...

TRUTH... 1. All were holy (kingdom of priests, holy nation – (Exodus 19:6).

2. Although true, it doesn't give reason for attack!

3. 2 wrongs don't make a right----imperfect leadership is no grounds for rebellion or mutiny!

4. Though a holy nation, not all are Levites (God's order of ministers).

5. Theocratic government (government led by God) is difficult to yield to - especially if you're determined to become more powerful.

Numbers 16:3 ...you put yourselves above all the people of the Lord...”

Numbers 16:5 ...Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who belongs to him... The mercy of God is extended, giving them an opportunity to think it through.

The Lord will show who is holy, and who He has chosen by the acceptance of the incense NOTE: incense was only to be offered by the office of Eleazar and Aaron (Numbers 4:16-20).

Numbers 16:9 Moses tried to reason with Korah.

Numbers 16:10 Moses reveals the motive - coveting the priesthood.

Numbers 16:11 Warning you're coming against God -- who is Aaron anyway but a servant!?

Numbers 16:12 Dathan and Abiram's contempt of authority. They accuse Moses of acting totally on his own -- no recognition of God in any of it

Numbers 16:14 They accuse Moses of unsuccessful leadership because he hadn't brought them in to the promised land.

Failure was due to their own unbelief and rebellion----AMAZING!

Numbers 16:17 ...Each of you must take your pan and put incense in it...

Numbers 16:4 —after seeing the judgment of God on rebels, the next day all the congregation blames Moses and Aaron, and murmurs against them. SLOW LEARNERS!

Jude 12 They are like dirty spots in your special Christian meals you share. They eat with you and have no fear, caring only for themselves. They are clouds without rain, which the wind blows around. They are autumn trees without fruit that are pulled out of the ground. So they are twice dead.

We now understand how God sees these false teachers; the heart and operation of false teachers.

...**dirty spots**... hidden rocks in shallow water (*spilas*) like sharp rocks.

...**spots in your special Christian meals**... The meals connected with the Lord's Table /Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:18-22, 33-34 First, I hear that when you meet together as a church you are divided, and I believe some of this. ¹⁹ (It is necessary to have differences among you so that it may be clear which of you really have God's approval.) ²⁰ When you come together, you are not really eating the Lord's Supper. ²¹ This is because when you eat, each person eats without waiting for the others. Some people do not get enough to eat, while others have too much to drink. ²² You can eat and drink in your own homes! You seem to think God's church is not important, and you embarrass those who are poor. What should I tell you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you for doing this.

³³ So my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴ Anyone who is too hungry should eat at home so that in meeting together you will not bring God's judgment on yourselves. I will tell you what to do about the other things when I come.

These false teachers become dangerous reefs to believers with their reckless, careless attitudes and actions. ...**They...have no fear**... no fear of God or authority: His Word or ways.

...**clouds without rain**... they look good, but there is nothing in them.

Both examples, spots and clouds, have no water of themselves, so they go where the “water” is! Water is a type of word of God. (these false teachers go to churches, gatherings of believers, etc.)

Matthew 7:15 Be careful of false prophets. They come to you looking gentle like sheep, but they are really dangerous like wolves.

Wolves in sheep’s clothing - look promising, but produce nothing (but evil).

...**which the wind blows around**... this speaks of circumstances: unseen, mystical, unpredictable, no order or structure (trying to grab a piece of mercury), unstable.

Ephesians 4:13-14 This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith and in the same knowledge of the Son of God. We must become like a mature person, growing until we become like Christ and have his perfection. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be babies. We will not be tossed about like a ship that the waves carry one way and then another. We will not be influenced by every new teaching we hear from people who are trying to fool us. They make plans and try any kind of trick to fool people into following the wrong path.

James 1:6 But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind.

False teachers are as unstable as the waves driven by the wind.

THE PROBLEM BEHIND THE PROBLEM!

... **They are autumn trees without fruit**...

Autumn is the time of harvest when expectation is highest, there are two conditions:

1. withered fruit - not fit to eat
2. without fruit - empty or barren

...**twice dead**... unbelievers waiting for the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-14)

Old saying - “If you’re born once, you die twice. If you’re born twice, you die once.”

God sees the eternal state of these false teachers, and through Jude shares it in the now.

Jude 13 They are like wild waves of the sea, tossing up their own shameful actions like foam. They are like stars that wander in the sky. A place in the blackest darkness has been kept for them forever.

...**wild waves of the sea, tossing up their own shameful actions like foam**...

...**tossing up...like foam**... the end result of a wave, regardless of its fierceness, when it has run its course, is nothing but foam left on the beach. The solid shore always wins over the wave!

The tragedy is that many Christian “surfers” are always chasing the “perfect wave”, going from wave to wave (church to church revival, conference etc.)

...like stars that wander in the sky...

These false teachers are like meteors, flashing through the sky. NOTE: shooting stars are like rebels, there is no order or system to their existence. They catch the attention for the moment as a brilliant flash. However, their life is extremely short. Their value is worthless, making no significant contribution. They distract from meaningful activities, rendering the viewer neutralized. When the “light show” is over and the viewer tries to return to meaningful activity, the next “wandering star” amazingly shows up to distract again. Eventually, the once faithful individual becomes neutralized totally, waiting for the next meteor shower.

Jude 14-15 Enoch, the seventh descendant from Adam, said about these people: “Look, the Lord is coming with many thousands of his holy angels to ¹⁵judge every person. He is coming to punish all who are against God for all the evil they have done against him. And he will punish the sinners who are against God for all the evil they have said against him.”

Historical background of Enoch:

Some have labeled Enoch as one of the 2 witnesses of Rev. 11 along with Elijah - based upon both being translated/raptured before their natural death.

But that is not correct. The 2 witnesses are Moses and Elijah, described by “actions” (Revelation 11:3-6)

1. Elijah had the power to stop the rain. (1 Kings 17:1-18:45)
2. Moses had the power to turn water to blood, and hit the earth with plagues.

Both Moses and Elijah are mentioned prophetically in Malachi 4:4-5

Moses and Elijah were revealed on the mount of transfiguration with Jesus, giving a preview of His Second Coming.

Hebrews 11:5 It was by faith that Enoch was taken to heaven so he would not die. He could not be found, because God had taken him away. Before he was taken, the Scripture says that he was a man who truly pleased God.

...**could not be found**... after he was taken to heaven, people looked for him as they did Elijah.

There is not much known about Enoch, except through the genealogy in Genesis 5:18-24.

Genesis 5:18-24 When Jared was 162 years old, he had a son named Enoch. ¹⁹ After Enoch was born, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰ So Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died. ²¹ When Enoch was 65 years old, he had a son named Methuselah. ²² After Methuselah was born, Enoch walked with God 300 years more and had other sons and daughters. ²³ So Enoch lived a total of 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; one day Enoch could not be found, because God took him.

Jared...Enoch's father - lived 962 years.

A possible reason for long lives - cloud canopy surrounded earth, producing tropical climate, sheltering sun rays until the Flood when God released the rain for the first time. NOTE: the life span of men dramatically dropped after the Flood, leaving the impression that there was some type of "environmental envelope" that shielded the earth. (don't make a doctrine here!)

"Enoch" = means consecration. Names were essentially confessions over child.

Some Bible names were changed: Abram/ Abraham Sarai/Sarah Simon/Peter Joses/Barnabus

Genesis 5:21,22 - Enoch walked with God AFTER the birth of Methuselah at age 65.

Something happened that caused Enoch to turn to God but what?

Remember the importance of names? METHUSELAH - "when he dies it shall fall"

God showed Enoch 2 visions: (these are parallel visions)

1. A flood was coming to the earth that would destroy the earth - and your son will be a sign in the earth of God's grace and patience - 969 years longest recorded life span. But when he dies, the "rain of judgment" will fall!

When you compare dates and years of Methuselah and the Flood in Genesis 4-5, the year that Methuselah died, the Flood came.

The last 120 years of Methuselah's life, Noah preached confirmation and revelation of his name.

Within the year, the rain fell and the fountains of the deep broke open, fulfilling the meaning of his name, and the preaching of Noah.

Jude 14-15 ... **"Look, the Lord is coming..."**

The two greatest times of apostasy (falling away from God) happen before the days of Noah, and during the days before the Second Coming - parallel days

Apostasy and world religion began to increase to new heights.

Matthew 24:29-30 [describes the Second Coming, not the Rapture.] - "Soon after the trouble of those days, 'the sun will grow dark, and the moon will not give its light. The stars will fall from the sky. And the powers of the heavens will be shaken.'³⁰ "At that time, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the peoples of the world will cry. They will see the Son of Man coming on clouds in the sky with great power and glory.

Commonly called the "Day of the Lord"

Joel 2:1-3 - prophesied a 24 hour period of supernatural darkness like at the crucifixion, giving a final period for repentance before judgment.

Matthew 24:36-39 Days of Noah compared to the Second Coming - not Rapture.

Matthew 24:36-39 “No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows. ³⁷ When the Son of Man comes, it will be like what happened during Noah’s time. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving their children to be married, until the day Noah entered the boat. ³⁹ They knew nothing about what was happening until the flood came and destroyed them. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes.

Verses 38,39 - “THEY and THEM” - who was taken away? Unbelievers!

The wicked unbelievers died in the flood, leaving Noah and his family to refill the earth. Also at the Second Coming unbelievers are taken and believers left to re-populate the earth during the Millennium.

Key scriptures showing differences between Rapture and the Second Coming/Revealing.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 “...meet the Lord in the air...”

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 “...coming of the Lord...and the time when we will meet together with him...”

Church (“he”) - Ephesians 2:15; 4:13; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Colossians 1:18,24

Revelation 19:1, 7-9, 11-14, 19 - scenes in heaven just before the second Coming

Jude 14-15 - Enoch’s prophecy is of this Rev.19 event!

Jude 15 ...He is coming to punish all who are against God for all the evil they have done against him. And he will punish the sinners who are against God for all the evil they have said against him.”

This is an excellent explanation of what will happen at the Second Coming.

...**to punish all**... believers and unbelievers

Jude 16 These people complain and blame others, doing the evil things they want to do. They brag about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.

These false teachers in the last days demonstrate certain characteristics:

They are complainers

They are following their own lusts

They brag about themselves (remember - clouds without rain! Verse 12)

They flatter and manipulate people – they are USERS!

Jude 14-21 Our Defense Against False Teachers

REVIEW - in Jude 3, Jude gave us a strong warning from the Holy Spirit to ...fight hard for the faith... This is our faith in God's Word – all of it!

Jude warned us that our belief system will be challenged in the Last Days by people who are not believers. If we are not prepared, then the enemy will destroy us. Our best way to defend ourselves is to know the Word.

2 Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be given to you more and more, because you truly know God and Jesus our Lord. ³ Jesus has the power of God, by which he has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know him. Jesus called us by his glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he gave us the very great and precious promises. With these gifts you can share in God's nature, and the world will not ruin you with its evil desires.

Verse 2 - Grace and peace are given more and more through knowledge of God.

Verse 3 - Everything we need to live and to serve God comes through the knowledge of Christ.

Verse 4 – With these gifts you can share... (become like a partner) in God's nature - we resist temptation and the devil because of the very great and precious promises.

Jude 16 These people complain and blame others, doing the evil things they want to do. They brag about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.

Jude 15 - Enoch's prophecy of the second coming of Christ shows us 2 things:

1. ...**judge every person**... Believers and unbelievers – based on divine law and justice; an official judgment sentence pronounced - forgiven or unforgiven, THE FINAL JUDGMENT - no appeals!

2. ...**to punish all who are against God**... to convict fully, punish, convince of their:

a. the evil they have done - ACTIONS

b. the evil they have said against Him - WORDS! CONVERSATIONS

These people complain and blame others... they trying to find anything wrong.

...**they flatter others**... **2 Peter 2:18** They brag with words that mean nothing. By their evil desires they lead people into the trap of sin—people who are just beginning to escape from others who live in error.

... **to get what they want** ... through fleshly, lustful, flattering words, they try to draw believers away and cause them to fall.

Jude 17 Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said before.

Introduction to the answer of how to resist.

Jude changed the focus of his letter. Jude 1-16 focus on the attributes, characteristics, traits, personalities, agendas, procedures of false teachers in the last days - IN OTHER WORDS, THE FALSE TEACHERS ARE EXPOSED! (No more excuses of “I didn’t know”).

Jude’s instructions now turn to the believers - ...**Dear friends**... also in Jude 20.

Jude now focused on how believers can be prepared to face these false teachers.

...**remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ said before**...

Speaking the Word is first, before prayer, or the power of the Holy Spirit!

Why? The Word is the foundation for prayer. Without the Word, you don’t know HOW to pray. With the Word you know how to pray!

Then once you begin to pray according to the Word, the Holy Spirit is able to energize that prayer because you are praying the WILL OF GOD WHEN YOU PRAY THE WORD OF GOD.

1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness we have in God’s presence: that if we ask God for anything that agrees with what he wants, he hears us.

Romans 8:26-28 Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. ²⁷ God can see what is in people’s hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants. ²⁸ We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people he called, because that was his plan.

Phrases like, “God told me” and “the Holy Spirit showed me in prayer”, are dangerous. They are *not* a HIGHER authority than the Word.

...the apostles...

2 Peter 3:2 I want you to think about the words the **holy prophets** spoke in the past, [*Old Testament*] and remember the command our Lord and Savior gave us through your **apostles**. [*New Testament*]

Both Old Testament and New Testament are valuable for the believer.

2 Peter 3:2 ...think about the words...and remember the commands...

learn from everything God has given us.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right.

2 Peter 1:12 You know these things, and you are very strong in the truth, but **I will always help you remember them.**

I will always help you to be firmly attached to them; to have your mind settled about them.

Jude 18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be people who laugh about God, following their own evil desires which are against God.”

2 Peter 3:3-5 It is most important for you to understand what will happen in the last days. People will laugh at you. They will live doing the evil things they want to do. ⁴ They will say, “Jesus promised to come again. Where is he? Our fathers have died, but the world continues the way it has been since it was made.” ⁵ But they do not want to remember what happened long ago. By the word of God heaven was made, and the earth was made from water and with water.

Jude 19 These are the people who divide you, people whose thoughts are only of this world, who do not have the Spirit.

These are the people who divide you... cause separation

...thoughts are only of this world... soulish only; controlled by the natural, fallen instinct of man. These people cannot understand the things of God. They can only be understood by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 A person who does not have the Spirit does not accept the truths that come from the Spirit of God. That person thinks they are foolish and cannot understand them, because they can only be judged to be true by the Spirit.

Jude 20 But dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Question - Does praying in the Holy Spirit give us faith? NO.

Faith comes by the teaching/hearing the Good News about God (Romans 10:17).

...build yourselves up... we build ourselves up by praying in the Holy Spirit.

...build yourselves up... means we build one layer at a time (a little here and there). It is a process.

When we spend a lot of time praying in the Holy Spirit we begin to build a spiritual “sixth sense,” (we begin to know what God is going to do).

The Word of God (the Bible) is filled with instructions, commands, guidelines, promises, etc. Knowing the Word is not enough. We need God to guide us into which truth is right for the current situation.

John 14:26 But the Helper [*the Holy Spirit*] will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.

John 16:13 But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to come.

There are many voices in the world - we need to know God's voice.

Things the Holy Spirit does in our lives:

1. Brings boldness (Acts 4:31 ... they spoke God's word without fear ... Peter's transformation)

a. On the Day of Pentecost Peter preached to thousands. Just a few days before that he couldn't witness to a girl.

b. (Acts 4:13) - before educated Sanhedrin, Peter powerfully communicated the gospel.

2. Brings refreshment and rest.

Isaiah 28:11-12 So the Lord will use strange words and foreign languages to speak to these people. ¹² God said to them, "Here is a place of rest; let the tired people come and rest. This is the place of peace." But the people would not listen.

Daily renewal is needed for victorious living, just as physical food is needed for your natural body.

Daily life can make us weary—the Holy Spirit is like an oasis in the desert of life.

When we are tired (our spiritual batteries are low) we need to plug in to our "power source" (the Holy Spirit).

2. Causes the believer to become sensitive to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27 Also, the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. ²⁷ God can see what is in people's hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants.

3. Reduces selfish prayers, keeping us from asking for the wrong things.

James 4:3 Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasures.

4. Reminds us that the Holy Spirit always has His presence in us.

John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you.

We need to remember that the Holy Spirit is always with us, and recognize that He is present everywhere we go, and He sees everything we do. That will make a difference in

where we go and what we do!

5. Helps us bring our speech under God's control. (James 3:2-10).

James 3:8 - The tongue can't be tamed by any person - but the Holy Spirit can tame it!

If you can let God control your speech, you can let God control everything!

Jude 21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ with his mercy to give you life forever.

... Keep yourselves in God's love...

How do we keep ourselves? Three ways:

1. Verse 17 - The Word
2. Verse 20 - Pray in the Holy Spirit - the Spirit
3. Verse 21 - Stay in fellowship with God - continual, personal examination

AREAS TO CHECK YOURSELF IN:

John 15:7 If you remain in me and follow my teachings, you can ask anything you want, and it will be given to you.

- Are you remaining (not visiting) in the Word?

Psalms 66:18 If I had known of any sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened to me.

- Is there sin in your heart? – our prayers effected by our sins.

Mark 11:25 When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins.

- Have you forgiven the people who have hurt you?

Matthew 5:23-24 So when you offer your gift to God at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there at the altar. Go and make peace with that person, and then come and offer your gift.

- Have you made peace with the people who have hurt you?

1 Peter 3:7 In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives in an understanding way, since they are weaker than you. But show them respect, because God gives them the same blessing he gives you—the grace that gives true life. Do this so that nothing will stop your prayers.

- Are you respecting, and recognizing the value of your spouse?

1 Corinthians 11:28 Look into your own hearts before you eat the bread and drink the cup

- Are you examining yourself before Communion?

2 Corinthians 13:5 Look closely at yourselves. Test yourselves to see if you are living in the faith. You know that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test.

- Are you examining yourself?

...**keep**... to guard from loss or injury, preserve, keep close watch as a prisoner - perhaps wanting to escape.

This is a command, not a suggestion.

...**yourselves**... most important attention is to examine yourself - not others.

...**love**... - agape - keep yourself in the middle of God's agape. That will help keep you safely fixed and secure when these false teachers are all around you!

... **as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ with his mercy to give you life forever.**

...**mercy**... compassion that leads to salvation's provision.

Keep remembering God's mercy was given to you (SALVATION) and God's unconditional love is provided toward you. Always know that humans are weak and easily fail. We need mercy, not justice. We will always need God's mercy until the end of time.

Matthew 24:13 But those people who keep their faith until the end will be saved.

The mercy of our Lord is His commitment to finish the good work in us. His personal involvement in our lives is the guarantee we have that it will be handled with mercy and compassion until it is completed.

... **life forever**... keep remembering the coming of the Lord!

If we continue to remember that the things of this life are temporary, (disappointments, struggles, temptations, etc.) and get a clear focus on eternal life with Christ, we can keep a steady, balanced way of living.

Always remember that Jesus is coming again. That will help us live holy lives.

Jude 22-23 - The Believer's Ministry and Mission Statement for the Last Days

Jude 22 Show mercy to some people who have doubts.

Jude is speaking about unbelievers who are still trying to decide about Jesus.

Our attitude should be full of mercy and grace, just like God is.

Compassion is active. It requires personal involvement.

Sometimes after a person has been saved for a while, they forget what it was like in the days before Christ. Now, most of their friends are believers. No longer do they struggle with some of the areas that unbelievers struggle. This “long time Christian” must think back to those days in his or her life and remember those wavering moments of whether “I’m in or out”.

Jude 23 Take others out of the fire, and save them. Show mercy mixed with fear to others, hating even their clothes which are dirty from sin.

Jude states that there is more than one way that people will be reached.

People are at different stages in the “harvest” process. Together with their personalities being unique, there is no set way that ALL are reached.

...Take others out of the fire... Be saving them, (speaking of unbelievers).

Some people are not touched or impressed by the truth of God’s grace, mercy, and loving kindness. They are only touched by the fear of judgment and sentencing. These are hard-core sinners.

This group of hard-core sinners is usually proud, self-confident, and aggressive. Their comments are “I don’t want to go to Heaven. I want to go where the party is! I don’t want to hang around a bunch of harp players forever!” These must be dealt with firmly with the truth about Hell, and that the ONLY PARTY going on will be “upstairs and not in the basement!”

...Show mercy mixed with fear to others, hating even their clothes which are dirty from sin.

We have a ministry of restoration and renewal to people who have fallen away from Christ.

...their clothes... represents the believer’s “covering” position in Christ

Revelation 3:4 But you have a few there in Sardis who have kept their clothes unstained, so they will walk with me and will wear white clothes, because they are worthy.

Revelation 16:15 “Listen! I will come as a thief comes! Blessed are those who stay awake and keep their clothes on so that they will not walk around naked and have people see their shame.”

The unbeliever’s battle is with their sin nature. The unbeliever has no clothes of righteousness to get dirty! The unbeliever is naked, totally exposed before the eyes of God.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too.

We need to help them gently – attitude.

Ephesians 5:27 He died so that he could give the church to himself like a bride in all her beauty. He died so that the church could be pure and without fault, with no evil or sin or any other wrong thing in it.

Christ will be presented as a glorious Church, without fault. Removing these faults comes through confession, repentance and restoration.

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you wanders away from the truth, and someone helps that person come back, ²⁰ remember this: Anyone who brings a sinner back from the wrong way will save that sinner's soul from death and will cause many sins to be forgiven.

Jude 24 God is strong and can help you not to fall. He can bring you before his glory without any wrong in you and can give you great joy.

In Jude 1, God called us (sets us apart), and kept us safe in Christ. Jude now in verse 24 declares God is able to help us to stand.

God is strong... - *dunamai* – powerful, like dynamite-power.

God's power is made available to us. He does not force His power on us. But His power is always available. If you receive His power is up to you.

...can help you... preserve from danger or harm, guard

...fall... without sin, blameless (only time used)

Is Jude promising that we will never fall? No. Jas. 3:2 says we all make mistakes. 2 Peter 1:10 assures us that we will never fall. Jude's words are meant to be an encouragement telling us that God's grace is strong enough to keep us from sin.

Jude then is not saying that we will live our lives without any sin. Jude is saying that the Lord is able to keep us from falling.

...He can bring you before his glory... to stand before His glory.

Philippians 1:6 God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again.

...without any wrong in you... without blame, without rebuke

It is Christ's blood that causes us to be **without any wrong**.

Ephesians 1:4 That is, in Christ, he chose us before the world was made so that we would be his holy people—people without blame before him.

Colossians 1:22 But now God has made you his friends again. He did this through Christ's death in the body so that he might bring you into God's presence as people who are holy, with no wrong, and with nothing of which God can judge you guilty.

...and can give you great joy... exultation, welcome, gladness, great rejoicing.

What a time of great rejoicing that will be! We will discover that even though we failed many times, we will have the privilege of being glorified with Him, being washed with His blood, and

being made without any fault!

Jude 25 He is the only God, the One who saves us. To him be glory, greatness, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now, and forever. Amen.

...**saves us**... He is our deliverer.

...**glory**... praise and honor

...**greatness**... majesty - divinity / strength

...**power**... ruling

...**authority**... privilege, control, delegated influence, jurisdiction

...**forever**. ages, eternity, world without end!!!

...**Amen**. In truth, most certainly; let it happen.

AMEN!!!!!!!