

“Building Yourselves Up!”

*But you, dear friends, by **building yourselves up** in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.* Jude 20-25

Introduction:

Jude is one of the half-brothers of Jesus and is writing to encourage believers to “contend for the faith.” (v 3). At the time of his writing Christianity was thought to be extremely vulnerable and susceptible to false teaching. Jude called the church to contend for the faith, in the midst of intense spiritual warfare. In the verses we’ll look at this morning Jude tells us how to be prepared to contend for the faith and then ways to do it. It requires us to keep building ourselves up in the faith and courageously following where God leads.

To build ourselves up in the faith:

1. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit...” v. 20

a. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

Romans 8:26-27

b. The Holy Spirit leads us to truth.

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13

c. The Holy Spirit comforts us.

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” Acts 9:31

2. Stay connected to God and to one another.

“...keep yourselves in God’s love...” v. 21

a. God’s love is eternal.

“Long ago the LORD said to Israel: “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.” Jeremiah 31:3

b. God’s love is active.

“Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength.” Deuteronomy 4:37

c. God’s love is our example.

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

3. Wait for God’s mercy.

“...as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” v. 21

a. Waiting prepares us to serve.

“Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.” v. 22-23

b. Waiting strengthens faith.

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority...” v. 24-25

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