

“CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - PART 8” (Jude 1:17-20)

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INTRO: Jude exhorts believers to contend for the faith because of the infiltration of false teachers [apostates] (vv. 3-4). Characteristics of apostates (vv. 8-16).

Two Primary Lessons:

1. It's not how you start, but how you finish – persevere!
2. Sin & unbelief have consequences that will be realized!

REMEMBER THE APOSTLES' WARNINGS (vv. 17-19; Acts 20:29-30; 1Tim. 4:1-2).

FIVE MORE APOSTATE CHARACTERISTICS (vv. 18-19):

1. They are mockers (v. 18a).
2. They walk according to their own ungodly lusts (v. 18, 16).
3. They are sensual [worldly] (vv. 19a, 10).
4. They cause divisions (v. 19b; Prov. 6:16, 19; 15:18; 16:28; Rom. 16:17-18).
5. They do not have the Spirit of God (v. 19c; Rom. 8:9; 1Cor. 2:14).

HOW TO CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH (vv. 20-23)

1. Build up your faith by praying in the Holy Spirit (v. 20).

A. Building up your faith is **your** responsibility!

B. FOUR WAYS TO BUILD UP YOUR FAITH:

- 1) Be in The Word (Acts 2:42; 2Tim. 2:15; Rom. 10:17).
- 2) Exercise what faith you do have (Matt. 25:15, 21).
- 3) Persevere in trials (1Pet. 1:6-7).
- 4) Pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20; Eph. 5:18; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:14; Acts 2:4; 19:6; 1Cor. 14:5, 18).

SEVEN BENEFITS OF PRAYING IN TONGUES:

1. You declare the wonderful works of God (Acts 2:11).
2. You magnify God (Acts 10:45-46).
3. You give God thanks well (1Cor. 14:16-17).
4. You speak mysteries in the spirit (1Cor. 14:2).
5. You build yourself up (Jude 1:20; 1Cor. 14:4).
6. You bypass your limited understanding (1Cor. 14:14).
7. You pray according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27; 1Jn. 5:14-15).

Summary: Build up your faith by praying much in the Spirit!