

## “CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH - PART 9 [Conclusion]” (Jude 1:21-25)

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**INTRO:** Contend for the faith because of the infiltration of false teachers [apostates] (vv. 3-4). Characteristics of apostates (vv. 8-19).

### Two Primary Lessons:

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

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

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

- A. This is YOUR responsibility!
- B. Build up your faith by praying in the Spirit/tongues.

#### Three Benefits of Praying in Tongues:

- 1) You speak mysteries in the spirit (1Cor. 14:2).
- 2) You pray according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27).
- 3) You build yourself up (Jude 1:20; 1Cor. 14:4).

#### 2. Keep yourselves in the love of God (v. 21, 2; Rom. 5:5).

- A. The Spirit imparts God's love (Rom. 5:5), and God's love casts out fear (1Jn. 4:18).
- B. Grow in your knowledge of God's love (Jn. 15:9-10).
- C. Grow in loving others (1Jn. 4:7-8, 11).
- D. Keep yourself in the mercy of God (Dan. 9:4).
  - 1) Grow in your knowledge of God's mercy (Eph. 2:4).
    - a. Eternal life is because of God's mercy (Titus 3:5).
  - 2) Grow in showing mercy to others (Matt. 5:7).

#### 3. Reach out to others who are struggling with their faith (vv. 22-23; 1Cor. 9:19, 22-23).

- A. Be compassionate towards those who need compassion (v. 22).
- B. Be confrontational towards those who need confrontation (23).
  - 1) Others save with fear – fear of God (2Cor. 5:11; Gal. 6:1-2).
  - 2) Pulling them out of the fire – be assertive (Gen. 19:16).
  - 3) Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.
    - a. Hate sin while loving the sinner.
    - b. Don't get caught up in their sin (1Thess. 5:22).

**BENEDICTION (vv. 24-25).** God can keep you from stumbling (v. 24a; 1b; 2Tim. 1:12)! Praise God for His wonderful attributes (v. 25)! Earnestly contend for your faith and finish well!