

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

(That we might KEEP THE FAITH and be KEPT - Jude)

Jude has exposed the evil in all its horror, and warned, encouraged, and exhorted the saints; but his final resource is God Himself and all that God is for His people. Even although we may fail, he sees the one in the glory who is able to keep us from stumbling, bring us safely home, and present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. **He tells us the end for the corrupters, the end for God's people, verse 24, and the end for God Himself verse 25.**

#	Scripture	Comments (Hamilton Smith)
1	<b>Contend</b> for the faith <b>Verse 2</b>	This implies conflict when the truth is at stake. We are to contend for the whole truth which we believe and not just a particular truth. It has once been delivered so there will be <b>no fresh communication of truth</b> to the saints, but we may have much to learn about it. We are not called to contend with error but with the truth. It does <b>not say earnestly expose the error</b> , but <b>earnestly contend for the faith</b> .
2	<b>Remember</b> the words of ... our Lord Jesus Christ <b>Verse 17</b>	Submission to the apostolic teaching is the great test which proves by what spirit a man speaks. <b>(1 John 4:6)</b> We should remember the very words in which the truth has been delivered to us through the apostles. Here it is the <b>prophetic warnings</b> of the apostles that we are more earnestly <b>called to remember</b> .
3	<b>Building up</b> yourselves on your most holy faith <b>Verse 20</b>	We can only meet error as we are built up in the truth. It is a <b>most holy faith</b> so it has a sanctifying effect on our souls and leads us into separation from the evil. <b>(John 17:17)</b>
4	<b>Praying</b> in the Holy Ghost <b>Verse 20</b>	Praying in the Holy Ghost will be prayer <b>according to the mind of God as revealed in His word</b> , and it will have <b>Christ and His interests for its object</b> .
5	<b>Keeping</b> yourselves in the love of God <b>Verse 21</b>	Praying in the Holy Ghost puts the soul in close touch with God, and to be in touch with God is to enjoy the conscious sense of His love, for God is love. <b>Just as we are kept in the love of God, we shall be delivered from the love of the world (1 John 2:15); kept in love of the saints (1 John 5:1); and led out in love to the sinner. (2 Cor. 5:14)</b>
6	<b>Looking</b> for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life <b>Verse 21</b>	Keeping ourselves in the love of God, will lead to "looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." <b>Building, praying, keeping, and looking express the mutually dependent exercises by which the soul is kept</b> in the midst of the prevailing corruptions of Christendom. Only then will you be able to care for others.
7	Of some have <b>Compassion</b> <b>making a</b> <b>difference</b> <b>Verse 22</b>	If your heart is kept in the love of God, your heart will go out to those that God loves. We are to have compassion for those that are led, and not willfully, but ignorantly away from the truth. The leaders in apostasy are not to be treated with compassion. To show compassion we shall need <b>Divine love</b> ; to make a difference will call for <b>Divine wisdom</b> ; to pull any out of the fire will require <b>Divine power</b> ; and to hate the garment spotted by the flesh will demand <b>Divine holiness</b> .

24 Now unto him that **is able to keep you from falling**, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, **be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.**