

The Letter of Jude

Jude was a half-brother of Jesus Christ. Jude was a brother of James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church. Jude is listed among the half brothers of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 13:55, *“Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. ⁵⁵ “Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and **Judas**? ⁵⁶ Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”*

and Mark 6:3. *“When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! ³ Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, **Judas** and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.”*

Jude is dealing with the dangers of false prophets who have slipped into the church. He is identifying these false teachers and gives us a list of their characteristics.

“They pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. *16* These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

These false teachers are basically selfish people taking all they can get with no true and real interest in others. Jude answers two basic questions:

How do we react to false teachers?

How do we combat false teaching? Jude gives us seven steps to deal with false teachers and keep ourselves pure and holy.

1. Build yourselves up in your most holy faith, Jude 20

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”

We build ourselves up in the faith by:

- (1) Personal Bible reading and Prayer
- (2) Personal Bible Study
- (3) Attending group Bible studies
- (4) Reading good books, listening to Bible teaching

- (5) Worship the Lord
- (6) Serve the Lord

2. Pray in the Holy Spirit

The Bible commentator Matthew Henry explains about praying in the Holy Spirit **“Praying under guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit”**, which means...

- Pray according to His Word
- Pray in faith believing
- Pray with fervency
- Pray continuously

3. Keep yourselves in God’s Love - Jude 21

“Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

First of all we love God.

Secondly we love others like we love ourselves.

The main manifestation of love is to give. Give our time, attention, and our money.

4. Wait for the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ - Jude 21

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

Live expecting the Lord Jesus to come back today.

An example of waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to return to earth was my mother on her sickbed. She asked to have her bed turned around so she could see the sky and so she lived expecting the Lord Jesus to return to earth any moment.

5. Be merciful to those who doubt - Jude 22

Be patient and loving with those who do not yet believe.

We offer friendship to the unbelievers. The Lord is a “Friend of sinners”

6. Snatch others from the fire and save them - Jude 23

“Snatching from fire” means we encourage and convince people to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and by faith in Jesus Christ people are saved from hell fire.

The Bible teaches that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1)

We must be involved in sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with our family, friends, coworkers and neighbors.

7. Rest on His keeping power – Jude 24-25

“He is able to keep you from falling and present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be Glory, Majesty, Power and Authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore.”

We rest in the KEEPING POWER of Jesus Christ to keep us from falling and failing and finally present us before His glorious presence in heaven.

Jesus Christ saves, keeps and gives us eternal life in heaven for ever and ever, NOW AND FOREVERMORE. SALVATION IS FOR NOW. ALL GLORY, POWER, MAJESTY AND AUTHORITY BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE KINGS OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. HE IS THE ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR FOR ALL PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, RICH AND POOR, MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL PEOPLES IN ALL NATIONS AND FROM ALL RELIGIONS.