**Building Up Your Most Holy Faith**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Jude 19-25**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 11, 2022**

**Jude 19-25**

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

**19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.**

Saints, these false teachers should have been easy to spot. They were not godly ministers; rather, they lived by natural instinct—living to please themselves and their sinful desires.

They did not have God’s Spirit living in them. They set themselves above all other Christians because of their imagined superior knowledge and understanding of their “freedom” in Christ.

Those allegedly enlightened enough to join them regarded themselves as distinct and superior from others in the church. Thus, Jude condemned these false teachers for

Ironically, the very presence of these false teachers who scoffed at the apostles’ teachings and at the prophecies of the Second Coming was a fulfillment of prophecy. The apostles had indicated that these false teachers would be abundant in “the last days” (see 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 John 2:18-26).

**1 Timothy 4:1-2**

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron…

**1 John 2:18-26**

18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life. 26 These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you.

Their presence only further assured the believers that Christ would soon return.

**20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,**

The believers could stand against the false teachers if they followed Jude’s advice in four areas. First, they must build on the firm foundation of their faith, standing strong and unified.

**1 Corinthians 3:9-17**

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 2:10-22**

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Saints, they could do this by staying close to other believers and by continuing in worship, including taking the Lord’s Supper.

Second, Jude encouraged the believers to continue to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prays on behalf of believers.

**Romans 8:26-27**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

**Galatians 4:6**

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

**Ephesians 6:18**

“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”

Prayer opens our minds to Jesus

**John 14:26**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you”

And the Holy Spirit teaches believers more about our Lord

**John 15:26**

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me”

Saints, prayer is the lifeline that connects all Christians to their Savior. Believers must never stop praying.

**21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

Saints, Third, believers should live in such a way that God’s love could bless them. This means that the believers must stay close to God and his people, not listening to false teachers who would try to pull them away.

**John 15:9-10**

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Saints, obedience is the key. The false teachers had flouted obedience and thus had stepped out of God’s love.

Fourth, the believers should patiently wait for the eternal life promised by the Lord Jesus Christ. The promises will come true. Christ will return and bring his people into eternal glory with him.

While believers have already received his mercy, they must wait for the consummation of that mercy when their salvation will be made complete.

**2 Peter 3:11-14**

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Believers wait in confident expectation. God’s promises are not “ifs” but “whens.” They must know, beyond any doubt, that their Savior will soon return for them.

**22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**

Saints, Although the false teachers were hopelessly entrenched in their sin and Satan’s grip, the believers had a responsibility to those who had fallen prey to false teaching.

The first group consists of those believers who have listened to the false teachers and have begun to doubt God’s truth. They still have reservations, so they have not yet joined the false teachers.

These people are not to be ridiculed; rather, they are to be shown mercy and carefully drawn back into the church by providing them with the true teaching of the gospel. Believers who are well taught in the faith can show mercy to those whose faith is wavering by quietly and calmly talking with them, explaining the false teachers’ error, and reminding them of the truth they had originally received.

The second group has gone beyond doubting. Agreeing with the false teachers, they are on the road to destruction. They need someone to literally step in their path and rescue them from the flames of judgment. The “flames” refer to the eternal punishment awaiting the false teachers.

If we saw someone about to be burned by fire, we would quickly grab that person and pull him or her out of harm’s way. That’s the attitude the true believers are to have toward those sliding toward false teaching. We need to grab them and pull them away before it is too late.

We need ministers and teachers who know how to refute false teaching and defend Christianity so that they can rescue the misinformed.

The third group refers to those already in the false teachers’ camps—those who have already joined them. These people also need mercy, but believers must be careful so as not to be contaminated by their sins.

While believers might try to rescue those deceived people, they must do so without allowing themselves to become contaminated by the false teaching. This will be a difficult task, one to be undertaken with healthy fear and respect for the spiritual warfare when God’s power meets head-on with Satan’s power.

Believers have God on their side, but they must remember not to attempt anything in their own power lest they too fall prey to the false teachers’ lies.

**24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,**

Saints, God is able to keep believers from falling prey to false teachers. Although false teachers were widespread and dangerous, although it would be dangerous to attempt to rescue slipping fellow Christians, the believers should not retreat or be afraid.

Instead, they should trust God and remain rooted and grounded in him. God can be trusted to bring all believers into his glorious presence. We should praise him for this great promise.

The believers could trust that God would do as he promised and one day bring them to himself. But that will not be a day of punishment (as it will be for the false teachers). Rather, it will be a day of joy, for God will present his people innocent of sin and with great joy. When Christ appears, and we are given our new bodies, we will be like him.

**1 John 3:2**

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is”

Saints, coming into Christ’s presence will be a time of “great joy” for God and for all believers.

**25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.**

Saints, contemplating the great joy awaiting all believers and the fulfillment of God’s promises of eternal glory, Jude praised God with a beautiful doxology. Jude had originally intended to write about the salvation all believers shared; he got his chance here.

This one final verse captures the focus and goal of believers’ salvation and faith. Christianity is not a series of made-up ideas or free-floating thoughts; it is faith in a person—not just any person, but God who became our Savior, through Jesus Christ. To this God alone the believers should ascribe

**1. Glory—God’s powerful radiance, his greatness, his complete moral superiority and splendor**

**2. Majesty—God’s transcendent Greatness**

**3. Power—God’s self-contained might, his control over the world**

**4. Authority—God’s sovereignty over all physical and moral laws in the entire universe**

Saints, these qualities reside in God alone. Jesus Christ is our Lord, meaning that he too has all glory, majesty, power, and authority as God himself. This was true before the ages began, and it is true in the present day. And it will continue to be true forevermore.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**