

JUDE

for growing believers

21



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Bible Study Guide

From the leadership development ministry of

FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS

Acknowledgments

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Table of Contents

JUDE for growing believers

	Page
Progression Toward Maturity	2
Lesson 1	6
Lesson 2	17

Revision 2
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Progression Toward Maturity

- **Phase 1 – Relationship with God** – (Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 1:9) – Call of God is first to Himself - “Creation to Christ” - (Foundation for salvation)
- **Phase 2 – Position with Christ** (1 Cor. 1:30a) New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17) – “Positioned in Christ” and “New Birth Explained” – (Foundation for Sanctification)
- **Phase 3 – Dependence upon the Spirit** – (2 Cor. 3:17-18) – (Holy Spirit is the Spirit-of-Truth – John 16:13-14) – **Introduction of the Church** - (Church is the Pillar and foundation of Truth – 1 Tim. 3:15) - “Acts for Growing Believers”
- **Phase 4 – Practical sanctification** - **Identification with Christ/Co-crucified with Christ/ Conformed to image of Christ** – (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:28-29) – Romans to Revelation for Growing Believers, “Principles of Spiritual Growth”, God’s Masterpiece the Cross,” and “Looking unto Jesus” lessons
- **Conclusion – Recommended order of study**

Detailed Explanation of Each Phase

Phase 1 – Foundation for Salvation - (“Creation to Christ”)

The Christian life is a relationship; therefore our desire is to lead our readers into a deep and intimate relationship with God. In order to grow into that level of relationship with God, there are foundational truths that must be clearly taught and understood. These foundational truths include the following;

- The attributes of God - His love, power, grace, omniscience, omnipotence, justice, immutability, hatred of sin, faithfulness.
- The sinfulness of man, his helplessness to save himself, and his need for a Savior.
- Only God can provide a way of salvation
- The Gospel.

Phase 2 – Foundation for Sanctification - (“Positioned in Christ” and “The New Birth Explained”)

The moment someone is born again, there is an immediate change of position that takes place in his or her life. At that very moment, one becomes a child of God, and is taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. All that Christ is, and all that Christ has, becomes ours. Therefore, before service to God is considered, one must be grounded in an understanding of who we are in Christ. Some important foundational truths that should be emphasized in phase 2 teaching, includes the following;

- Placed into Christ
- Justified (declared righteous) and accepted in Christ.
- Child of God
- Restored to oneness with God
- Eternally secure in Christ
- His Divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through His finished work on the cross.
- Our part is to believe.

Phase 3 – Dependence upon the Spirit and introduction of the church – (“Acts for Growing Believers”)

The position change that takes place in every believer's life at salvation, is immediate and complete. The daily "living out" of that position, on the other hand, is a growth process. It is the progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is working all believers through in His process of conforming us to the image of Christ.

In order for believers to move on to maturity, we must learn to walk and depend upon the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our purpose in phase 3 teaching is to reveal the Holy Spirit's ministry, and His faithfulness to lead, guide, feed, and protect God's children, as well as to introduce the church. Some of the important foundational truths that should be emphasized include the following.

- The Holy Spirit's ministry to lead, guide, feed, protect, and establish us in truth.
- To emphasize the FAITHFULNESS of the Spirit to fulfill all that Jesus promised.
- To reveal the early church's dependence upon the Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is as faithful in our lives today, as He was to the early church in the book of Acts.
- Introduction of the church and her role.

Phase 4 – Practical sanctification; Identification with Christ; Conformed to the image of Christ – (“Romans to Revelation for Growing Believers,” Principles of Spiritual Growth, God’s Masterpiece the Cross of Christ,” and “Looking Unto Jesus” lessons.)

The Holy Spirit is teaching us to walk less in the flesh and more in the Spirit, with Christ becoming more and more the object of our hearts.

In phase 4, we will study through the epistles with the purpose of learning to rest in our identification with Christ and His finished work. As we, by faith, begin to appropriate identification truths, our co-crucifixion with Christ, our lives will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, manifesting the fruit of the Spirit.

Some of the important truths that will be emphasized in Phase 4 includes the following.

- The believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Crucified with Him, and raised to newness of life)
- Sanctification is the process of walking less and less in the flesh and more and more in the Spirit.
- Our part in the process is faith in the finished work of Christ, and our identification with it.
- What it means to truly walk in the Spirit
- Putting off the old and putting on the new.
- Manifesting the life of Christ/ fruit of the Spirit.

Conclusion: Recommended Order of Study:

Being that there truly is a progression of growth that the Holy Spirit is taking all believers through, therefore our Bible lessons have been developed and arranged to line up with that work of the Spirit in our lives. Each set of lessons contain the foundational truths that must be in place in a person's heart in order to facilitate their growth unto the next stage of spiritual growth. Therefore, we believe that it is important to teach the lessons in the following order:

1. Creation to Christ
2. Positioned in Christ
3. Acts for growing believers

4. Romans for growing believers
5. Ephesians for growing believers
6. 1 Corinthians for growing believers
7. 1 Timothy for growing believers
8. Titus for growing believers
9. 1 & 2 Thessalonians for growing believers
10. Revelation for growing believers
11. Galatians for growing believers
12. Colossians for growing believers
13. 2 Corinthians for growing believers
14. Philippians for growing believers
15. Philemon for growing believers
16. 2 Timothy for growing believers
17. 1 & 2 Peter for growing believers
18. 1, 2 & 3 John for growing believers
19. Hebrews for growing believers
20. James for growing believers
21. Jude for growing believers
22. The Old Testament for mature believers
23. Acts through Revelation, verse by verse for mature believers

JUDE FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 1

A. Jude Greet His Readers

“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called” Jude 1

- In the early church, there was but one James who was known well enough to have been named without needing further clarification, therefore, the writer of this book was probably Jude, the brother of James and half-brother to Jesus. Both James and Jude were sons of Joseph and Mary, the parents of Jesus. (**Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55; Acts 1:13; Acts 15:13; Galatians 1:19**)
- It seems probable that Jude, like James and the other half-brothers of Jesus did not believe, during his earthly life, that Jesus was the Christ. It may have been after His resurrection that James and Jude believed. Through natural birth Jude had a physical relationship with Jesus. By being born again, he was brought into a spiritual relationship with Jesus. (**I Corinthians 15:7**)

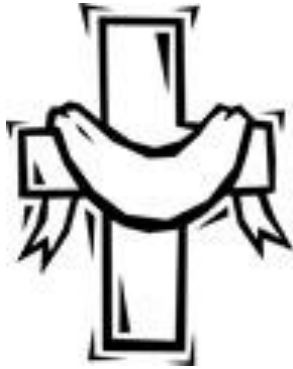


B. A Spiritual Relationship With Jesus is Better Than a Physical One

- Although Jude could have claimed to be one of Jesus’ earthly relatives, he merely claimed to be “a bondservant of Jesus Christ.”
- We know from our study of the Old Testament that the Jews were proud of the fact that they were children of Abraham (**Luke 3:8; John 8:39**). Once James and Jude became confident in the reality of who their “brother” truly was, they, too, could have become proud of the fact that they were brothers of Jesus. It’s interesting that Jesus made it clear that a spiritual relationship with Him was of far greater value than a physical one. (**Matthew 12:46-50**)

C. All Believers Have a Spiritual Relationship With Jesus

- Through faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we have been brought into a spiritual relationship with Him, which is a closer relationship than we would have had if we had been born a son or daughter of Mary and Joseph. Because we have been born again by the Holy Spirit, Jesus calls us



His brothers. Because we are His brothers, what can we expect from Him? Full acceptance, undying loyal love, understanding and forgiveness, and a desire for a close and personal relationship. (**Hebrews 2:11**)

- It is unclear to whom Jude was writing. Some believe that it was the same people to whom the book of 2 Peter was written and others think he was writing to believers in Palestine who would have been familiar with his references to Jewish history in **Jude 1:7-11**.
- Also, little is known regarding the circumstances of those to whom he was writing or the exact time that it was written, but many believe that Peter's writing of 2 Peter spurred on Jude's letter (**2 Peter 2:1-3:3; Jude 1:3-18**).
- Therefore, it is thought that Jude wrote this book after Peter's death and before the destruction of Jerusalem. It seems that both Peter and Jude were alarmed at the great number of false teachers who were being accepted in the churches. Serious apostasy, like what Paul referred to in **Acts 20:29-31** seems to have been very prevalent in Jude's day.



D. Called and Sanctified

- Jude states that he is writing to those who have been “called” which is true of all believers. All of us were called from our fallen position in Adam (enemies of God), and have been appointed unto a new position; that of being saved and accepted children of God. The work of calling men unto Himself is the work of the Holy Spirit and He does this by using the circumstances of life to prepare hearts to hear, understand, and believe the truth of God's Word. It is not done by our own wisdom and persuasiveness of speech; only by the Holy Spirit.
- Jude goes on to say that these believers are sanctified by God the Father. The tense of the verb “sanctified” is “perfect participle passive.” Passive voice means that it is something that was done to the subject; meaning God did the work of sanctifying man. Our sanctification is not the result of our work or effort. Perfect participle stresses the state that is brought about by the finished result of the action. So, Jude reminds these believers of the new state or new

position that they have been given as the result of God sanctifying them or setting them apart. (**I Corinthians 6:20; I Peter 2:9-10**)

E. Preserved By God

- Jude proclaims that his readers were being preserved by God. Those who have been “called” and “sanctified” by the Holy Spirit are also being “preserved” in Jesus Christ. There is a progression here; God the Father called us unto a new position and God the Holy Spirit sanctified us or set us apart and made us God’s children. And it is God the Son who preserves this standing, for it’s all based on the finished work of Christ (**John 10:27-29; I Peter 1:3-5**).

F. Mercy, Peace, Love

“Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied.” Jude 2

- The fullness of God’s mercy, peace, and love has been given to us in the Lord Jesus the moment we are born again, and it never changes. But, because of walking in the flesh in unbelief, we do not always experience the fullness of God’s mercy, peace, and love.
- Therefore, Jude is not saying he hopes that the amount of God’s mercy, peace, and love would be increased toward the believers, but rather their experience of God’s mercy, peace, and love would increase. As the believers grasped more and more the facts of their calling, sanctification, and preservation, the more their hearts would sense and experience the mercy, peace, and love of God. This is also true in our lives today. The more we grasp the facts of our position in Christ, the more we’ll realize the extent of God’s mercy, peace, and love that we’ve already been given.
- Just before Jesus was crucified, He prayed that it would be evident to everyone how much God loves His children; He loves them as much as He loves the Lord Jesus. **John 17:23; Ephesians 3:17-19**
- The facts of God’s mercy, peace, and love are true whether or not we are experiencing it, but Jude’s desire was that their experiencing of it would also continue to increase.



G. A Challenge

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude:3-4

- Thinking back to verses 1 & 2, God the Father called us to be His children, God the Spirit sanctified and set us apart as the children of God, and now Christ has preserved us through His finished work. Jude is stating, because such mercy, grace, peace, and love has been bestowed upon us, stand up for these truths. Contend for the truth of these facts, for ungodly men have sneaked in attempting to lead us astray.
- “The faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” This seems to indicate that at the time of Jude’s ministry, the doctrinal convictions of the early church had been substantially taught and possibly documented, meaning that Jude may have been able to appeal to written documents of the Christian faith in his argument against the false teachers. Most likely, these documents would have been Paul’s writing, possibly one or more of the gospels, and even 1 & 2 Peter. There was a time when the early church wasn’t as clear on these truths (**Galatians 2:1-14**). Early on there was still uncertainty and syncretism with the law, but at this point Jude is communicating that it’s been written down once and for all; it’s settled. (**Psalms 119:89**)
- Beginning on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit revealed everything that Jesus wanted His church to know. The completed Word of God was given to the church to teach and protect it from all changes. Once God’s revelation to the church was complete, no one was to alter it, take anything away from it, or add anything to it (**Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 4:2**).
- Before the apostles died, they entrusted the completed Word of God to the men and women whom they had taught. Paul wrote the following to Timothy at the end of his life: *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:1-2*



- Many generations of Christians have lived and died since the apostles received the final revelation of truth through the Holy Spirit. Each generation of believers has been responsible to teach all the Word of God to the church and to defend the church against deceivers who have tried to lead it astray. Now it is our turn to faithfully unfold the whole counsel of God for the next generation of believers.
- When Jude wrote the letter we are studying, false teachers were already in the churches.
- Jude was aware that evil, apostate teachers were in the churches and so it was imperative that the believers take a firm stand for truth in order that they protect their churches. They were not to permit the false teachers in the churches to continue denying the Lord Jesus and the truth. They were to stand firm in the faith, and remove them from their fellowship.
- Jude said that the false teachers had crept into the churches and the believers had received them, thinking they were true children of God. These deceivers acted as though they agreed with the teachings of the churches until they gained a foothold among God's people. Peter and Paul both spoke of false teachers (**2 Peter 2:1; Acts 20:29-30**).
- It is especially important to question those who come into our churches claiming to be teachers of God's Word, and if they are strangers, they are not to teach the church until it is clear what they believe.
- We must take a strong stand against anyone who teaches anything contrary to the truth (**2 John 10-11**).
- Sometimes it is difficult to know when to take a strong stand because many believers have different interpretations of the scriptures. Nevertheless, the elders and teachers should continue to uphold and teach biblical truth.
- Jude said that the false teachers, who were written about in ages past, would receive judgment. In the Old Testament scriptures God condemned false teachers and Jude makes it clear throughout his letter that those who deny the truth and teach error will be punished by God. (**Isaiah 8:19-22; Jeremiah 14:14-15, 27:14-15**)
- The false teachers turned the grace of God into lewdness.
- As Jude continues on, it would appear that the false teachers were not just believers who were confused, but rather they were unbelievers. They may have had an appearance of spirituality, as Jude states that they had crept in unnoticed; however, he declares they turned the grace of God into a license to live a life without restraint, and giving themselves to whatever their flesh

desired. **Titus 2:11-12** states that the grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, rather than teaching we are free to live without restraint.

- So, why then do so many people misunderstand grace and oppose it as being something that will lead to sin? Because they themselves are living under a self righteous, law mentality, depending upon their own efforts to make right decisions and choose not to sin. They view themselves as already being righteous through their own efforts and therefore they have no need for grace. But, those who recognize their own depravity and sinfulness, the message of grace is refreshing and humbling to them. For they realize that they deserve nothing from God but punishment. And because they recognize that they have received what they don't deserve, grace then motivates them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live a self-less, God-honoring life (**Philippians 2:13**).
- Jude is communicating that these false teachers were already in their midst and they were denying that Jesus is Lord which would be proof that they themselves were not born again.

H. Three Old Testament Examples of God's Judgment

“I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 5-7

- It would be good for us to be reminded of Jude's purpose in writing. In verse 3 he stated that he was writing regarding salvation; possibly a desire to encourage his readers to focus on the hope that they had in Christ. But it was even more needful to write, exhorting them to contend for truth and stand firm against the false teachers who were among them. So, in giving these examples of God's past judgment and punishment of those who had rejected truth, Jude is revealing to his readers that this is a very serious issue.

- Just as God punished the people in the past, He will one day punish false teachers who go their own way refusing to believe His Word.
- Jude’s first example was that of the Israelites; God showed His great power by delivering them from slavery in Egypt, taking them through the Red Sea, and providing manna and water and all their needs as they traveled to the Promised Land. But, even after all of these experiences, they refused to believe that God could overcome the giants in the land of Canaan. All the adults except Joshua and Caleb agreed with the ten spies who said it was impossible for them to enter the land. Because of their unbelief, God refused to permit them entrance into the Promised Land. They wandered in the wilderness for forty years and all died there. Rejecting truth and walking in unbelief is to exalt oneself above God. (**Hebrews 3:16-19**)
- Next, Jude reminds them of the angels who rebelled against God. The scriptures do not tell us who these angels were or what they did to cause them to be “reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment day.” But, it appears that they were not the angels who followed Lucifer in his rebellion. Those who followed him are active in the world, deluding mankind and fighting against God and His people. (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 6:12**)
- *Some believe that the angels mentioned in Jude 6 are “the sons of God” mentioned in **Genesis 6:1-2**. They believe that prior to the flood in Noah’s time, this group of angels left the position God had given them in Heaven and cohabitated with women on earth. According to this interpretation, the children born from these unions were giants (**Genesis 6:4**).*
- *However, there is difficulty in accepting this interpretation. Here are some reasons: God created Adam to be the father of the entire human race. He alone carried the means of human procreation. God created each species on earth to reproduce “according to its kind” **Genesis 1:25**). Since angels are a different “kind” to human beings, it doesn’t seem that God would endow them with the ability to impregnate women (**Genesis 6:4**). Also, it seems contrary to the ways of God for Him to create angels with sexual capabilities, but without the opportunity to use this ability (**Mark 12:25; I Corinthians 7:5**). God created all things good and for His honor and glory (**Genesis 1:31; I Timothy 4:1-3**). If God created angels with the ability to reproduce, then He would have done so for His glory and He would have created them male and female so they could reproduce as humans do. While it is true that angels have appeared on earth as men, this does not mean that they actually were human beings with reproductive ability. The Lord Himself also appeared in*

*Old Testament times as a man but at this time He didn't have a human body for it was prior to His birth as a human being (Genesis 18:1-3, 16-22; 19:1).
Trevor McIlwain*

- God punished the immoral people of Sodom and Gomorrah. In his letter to the Romans, Paul wrote about God's judgment on those who follow a perverted, evil lifestyle similar to that of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. God destroyed these people as an example to anyone who chooses to follow the same immoral way. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah continue to suffer the punishment of the eternal fire of hell, and all who follow their evil example will receive the same. (**Romans 1:24-32**)

I. The Character of Apostate Teachers

“Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.” Jude 8

- The false teachers were evil minded and arrogant.
- Jude had just pointed out in verses 5-7 that the Israelites were punished for unbelief, the angels were punished for disregarding God's authority, as well as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them were punished for their perverse immorality. Likewise, Jude writes in verse 8 that these false teachers were committing the same sin that the above three groups had been judged for, therefore, why were they remaining in their midst? (**Romans 13:1-7**)
- The false teacher's pride and arrogance was even to the extent of exalting themselves over angelic beings. They would boast and make statements as if they were the final authority in regard to things that they knew nothing about.

“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.” Jude 9

- It's interesting that Michael, one of God's greatest angels, would not rebuke Satan.
- We know nothing more about this incident, other than what is written in this verse. There is no other mention of this in the Bible.



- We will remember from Numbers 30:11 that Moses struck the rock rather than speaking to the rock as God commanded, therefore God would not permit him to enter the land of Canaan. God showed Moses the Promised Land from the top of the mountain, where Moses died and God buried him. Therefore, no one knows where Moses' body was buried. **(Deuteronomy 34:5-6)**
- It is God who permits angels and people to be in positions of authority. Jude's whole point for mentioning this isn't to focus on "demonology" and the interaction between the forces of good and evil, but rather for the purpose of showing the extent of the arrogance of the false teachers. They had elevated themselves above all authority, even to the extent of speaking condescendingly about angelic beings. Jude said that not even Michael the Archangel, who is the highest angel, had the authority to rebuke Satan, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." Only God has the authority to rebuke and judge spirit beings. However, the false teachers were so proud and arrogant, that they were speaking about spirit beings as if they themselves were God. **(Ephesians 6:11-12)**

"But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." Jude 10

- The false teachers' ignorance, arrogance and desire for evil would result in their eternal destruction.
- The false teachers mocked and spoke against spiritual powers and truths which they didn't understand. Also, like "brute beasts" they gave themselves over to sinful pleasures. However, they would not escape eternal destruction.
- Jude declares that these men could only act according to what they "instinctively comprehend;" and their actions were like that of irrational animals (that don't think, but act according to instinct). These men claimed to be guided by special insight, but were in fact simply following their instincts.
- The false teachers were living life in the flesh, and the deeds of the flesh they will do **(Galatians 5:19-21)**.

"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." Jude 11

- The false teachers had the same attitude as Cain.
- The “way of Cain” is the opposite to the way of faith. Cain was not a man of faith like his brother, Abel. Cain walked in unbelief, bringing a sacrifice that he himself thought would be good. He rejected the authority of God by refusing to bring the sacrifice that God required. (**Hebrews 11:4; I John 3:12**)
- Not only did Cain reject God’s authority and walk in unbelief, but he also rejected God’s grace. God pursued Cain, imploring that he repent, but even when God appealed to Cain to repent (change his mind), he refused. Cain’s rejection of God’s authority and grace is ultimately what led to his condemnation. (**Genesis 4:6-7**)
- Like Cain, the false teachers were not men of faith. They refused to listen to the Word of God. They followed their own thoughts and despised the grace of God. Like Cain, these men were headed for destruction.
- The false teachers were living for monetary profit much like Balaam who was more interested in wealth than doing the will of God. He disobeyed God because he wanted the reward that Balak, king of the Midianites, had promised him. Balak hired Balaam to curse the Israelites, who, while on their way to Canaan, camped near the land of the Midianites. Because Balak was afraid that the Israelites would conquer his country, he asked Balaam to put a curse on them.
- Although Balaam wanted to curse Israel in order to receive the reward, God forbade Balaam to say anything evil about the Israelites. When Balaam realized he could not curse the Israelites, he devised another plan: he suggested to Balak that he ask the Midianite women to offer themselves to the Israelite men. The plan was designed to lead them into adulterous relationships and idolatry so that God would punish them. Sadly, some of the Israelite men were trapped in this plan. (**Numbers 22:1-12; 24:25; 25:1-9; 31:8, 16**)
- Like Balaam, the false teachers that claimed to serve God had another motive; financial gain. Furthermore, like Balaam, they were leading God’s children into immorality. (**2 Peter 2:15-16; Revelation 2:14**)
- The false teachers rebelled against those that God had placed in authority, just as Korah and his followers had.
- Jude continues by referring to yet another person mentioned in the Old Testament. This person also lived while the Israelites were on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Korah became jealous of the position of

authority which God had given Moses and Aaron. Korah and others whom he led in rebellion, claimed that Moses and Aaron had no right to their positions of authority. But God, who had given to Moses and Aaron the responsibility to guide and lead the Israelites, showed clearly that He had chosen them. God destroyed Korah and his companions. (**Numbers 16:1-3, 28-33**).

- Like Korah, the false teachers refused to submit to those whom God had placed in authority. Instead they claimed to have that authority and set themselves up as spiritual leaders. So certain was Jude that God's judgment was coming that he wrote as though they, too, had already "perished in the rebellion of Korah."
- In these first eleven verses, Jude has given six examples of God's judgment against false teachers. Jude intended this to be a warning that all who hear would take this matter seriously and begin to stand firm in the faith.

JUDE FOR GROWING BELIEVERS

LESSON 2

A. A Challenge to Uphold the Truth

“These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” Jude 12-13

- Jude used illustrations from nature to describe the character and final destruction of false teachers.



- The false teachers had entered churches and were participating with the believers when they met together for a fellowship dinner.
- The entire church gathering together for a meal was a common practice of the early church (**Acts 2:46**) by eating together, they demonstrated their love for one another whether they were Jew or Gentiles, rich or poor. (**I Corinthians 11:20-22; Galatians 2:11-12**)
- Jude described the false teachers who attended these meals as “spots in your love feasts.” The believers should have refused to welcome such people (**2 John 11-12**). We remember this is what Paul spoke of when he wrote to the Corinthians (**I Corinthians 5:9-11**).
- The word for “spots” here actually means hidden rocks or reefs. The idea is that just as ships must beware and steer clear of hidden reefs or suffer shipwreck, so it is with false teachers. They may appear to be rocks and pillars in the church that may be trusted, but in all actuality, they are hidden reefs; if believers get too close, their faith could suffer shipwreck.
- In Verse 12, Jude states that the false teachers “feast with you without fear, serving only themselves.”
- The false teachers had no fear of God, for if they had, they would not dare sit down to eat with the church as though they had every right to be there. They had no respect for the authority of God, nor did they care for the other believers; they only lived to please themselves.
- Even today, though we may be a leader, elder, or pastor in the church, if we are living life in the flesh, then its’ impossible to truly shepherd the flock of

God. We'll only think and care for ourselves and attempt to satisfy our fleshly desires.

- The false teachers were like “clouds without water, carried about by the winds.”
- In times of drought when clouds begin to build, so do people's hope that it will soon rain. But, if the clouds blow over leaving no rain, the people are disappointed. The false teachers were in a similar way giving false hope; people hoping that they really did have life-changing messages. However, their teaching did not produce spiritual fruit and growth, for their teaching was not according to the truth.
- The false teachers were like “healthy trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots.”
- They claimed so much, but they were like useless trees that had been uprooted; trees that could never be recovered. What a description of those who boasted about themselves, their abilities, and their message. Not only were they born spiritually dead, but through their evil teachings and rebellious way of life, they had cut themselves off from God and the truth.
- Jude referred to them as being twice dead. Not only were these false teachers unbelievers and spiritually dead, but there was also no fruit from their teaching.
- The false teachers were like “raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame;” or it could be said, “spewing out the foam of their shame.” Just like waves churn up foam and dirt, these teacher's lives and doctrine were churning up their own shameful deeds.
- The false teachers were like “wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.” The imagery that Jude uses here of a star, fits the nautical theme that he was using as examples. At that time, stars were the guides to sailors at night. In the same way, teachers are responsible to lead the flock through this darkened world. But, these false teachers, as wayward stars are not “fixed” or stationary, and hence offer unreliable and disastrous guidance, and were therefore, both the dangerous reefs on which ships could be destroyed, and the false guides leading them into the rocks.
- Jude then stated in a very strong way that false teachers had nothing to look forward to but the “blackness of the darkness for eternity.” For all eternity, these men will be “shrouded” with eternal misery and damnation.
- Jude's hearers should have been taking a stand against the false teachers while contending for the truth, as they were nothing more than dead, fruitless, and

unreliable guides, who by their actions and teaching churned up dirty and shameful deeds, and thereby were men who were headed for eternal misery and damnation. These were not men that the church should have been respecting, following, and accepting in their midst.

B. Enoch's Prophecy

- Jude supported what he was saying by quoting a prophecy from Enoch made thousands of years previously.

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 14-15

- We will remember that we learned about Enoch from the Old Testament. Enoch was in the seventh generation from Adam. (**Genesis 5:21-24**) He pleased God and God took him directly into Heaven. There aren't any other statements or writings by Enoch in the Bible except this one that is recorded here in the book of Jude. In the Catholic Apocrypha there is a book of Enoch which contains this prophecy. Early church historians wrote that they accepted the Apocrypha as a valid source of historical information. Therefore, it is possible that Jude, writing under the influence of the Holy Spirit, used this prophecy of Enoch to describe the false teachers who sought to lead astray believers from true faith in Christ.
- This prophecy will be partly fulfilled when the Lord Jesus returns with all of His people following the Tribulation. The complete fulfillment will take place at the end of the world when the Lord Jesus will judge those who have died without putting their faith in Him as their Savior. (**Revelation 19:11-16; 20:11-15**)
- Enoch described the life, speech, and actions of the unsaved as being “ungodly.”
- He said that Christ is returning (after the tribulation) with tens of thousands of His saints (the Church) to judge and convince all that are ungodly, or those who have no reverence for, or thought toward God. They are coming to show those who have no standing or state “in God,” that they, in their godless state,

have committed sinful and godless actions, have spoken sinful and ungodly things against God, having done it in sinful and godless ways.

- Again, this refers back to the sinful position in Adam that every human being is born into. We do ungodly things, have ungodly thoughts and make ungodly comments because we have a sinful, ungodly, human nature. (**Romans 3:9-18; 8:7-8; Ephesians 4:18-19**)

C. Further Descriptions of the False Teachers

- After quoting Enoch’s prophecy, Jude continued to describe the character and evil actions of the false teachers.

“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage.” Jude 16

- Jude describes these men as being murmurers, quarrelers, and walking after their own lusts (**Galatians 5:19-21**). Their own fleshly desires were leading them and not the Spirit of God. Notice the difference in attitude and perspective from these men compared to what Paul wrote in **Philippians 4:11-13**.
- In the flesh, we are self-centered, seeking our own desires and having no view of the goodness and sovereignty of God in our lives. Therefore, in the flesh, it’s impossible to walk by faith, thereby also making it impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6; Philippians 4:6-7; I Peter 5:5-7**).
- But, as we walk in the Spirit, Christ becomes more and more the object of our hearts and not our own desires. We are also confident in the goodness and sovereignty of God, trusting Him with every aspect of life, and thereby walking in a manner that is pleasing to Him (**Galatians 5:16-25**).
 - The false teachers used “great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.” One translation states that they gave “bombastic speeches.” Their purpose was to deliberately flatter and impress people so they would listen to their teaching. This is the opposite of what Paul wrote regarding his own teaching and preaching (**I Corinthians 1:17; 2:4; 2 Corinthians 4:1-2**).



- When one is living life in the flesh, his only option is to rely on his own wisdom and schemes for what he believes will make him successful. But those who walk in the Spirit have the confidence that the Spirit of God is leading them, and thereby can rest, trusting that God will work according to His will and for His glory, and accomplishing what is best for all involved.
- When we want to catch an animal, we deceive it by placing food in or near a trap. The animal sees only the food and doesn't realize it is about to be captured. This is similar to the way the false teachers were able to attract and influence unsuspecting people. They could sound impressive and interesting, speaking pleasantly, and all the while were hiding their real intentions (**Proverbs 27:6**).
- If we walk in the flesh, we make ourselves vulnerable to the flattery and appeal of false teachers. Our flesh loves to be praised, recognized, and flattered. And when someone comes "feeding" our flesh, unless we are walking in the Spirit, we will be easily led astray.
- The believers should not have been surprised that false teachers had come. The apostles had previously warned that false teachers would enter into the churches.

"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." Jude 17-18

- In Peter's second letter, he warned his readers that false teachers would come into the churches (**2 Peter 2:1-3**).
- By the time Jude wrote his letter, the false teachers were already in the churches.
- When Paul met with the Ephesian elders at Miletus, he warned them also that after he had gone, false teachers would come into the church at Ephesus. Paul gave a similar warning when he wrote his second letter to Timothy (**Acts 20:28-31; 2 Timothy 3:1-5**).

"These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Jude 19

- The false teachers were being controlled by their evil nature.
- Because the false teachers had not been born again they were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, even though they claimed to be servants of God,

they were living and speaking according to their own ideas, which were under the control of their evil flesh.

- The false teachers caused divisions among God’s people (**Galatians 5:19-21**). Divisions are part of the characteristics of the flesh and will be manifested when we walk in the flesh. We become so deceived that we can even feel justified in causing division in the church.

D. Jude’s Solution For the Church

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

- Jude’s first instruction to the church for enabling them to stand firm against the false teachers, was to “build up themselves in their most holy faith.” They were to continue growing in their understanding, and dependence upon the true and undefiled truth that they had already received. How does one “build up his faith?” (**Romans 10:17**) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (**Colossians 3:16**)
- Next, Jude declared, “Pray in the Holy Spirit.”
- As we walk in the Spirit, our hearts are set to only desire God’s will and not our own. Therefore, we are free from attempting to beg and manipulate God. We’ll believe and trust in His goodness, and will be confident that however He chooses to answer our prayers; it will always and only be for our good.
- One thing we’ll find is that the more we grow in only desire for God’s will and not our own, the more we may experience times of not knowing how to pray. In our hearts, we realize that often we don’t know what God is doing and we don’t know what would be best. But, one thing we will be sure of, God’s love, grace, mercy, and power to faithfully work in people’s lives will never change. So, even when we don’t know what to pray for, the Spirit of God knows what’s best and we can rest in that fact (**Romans 8:26-28**).
- In order to prepare to stand against those who were distorting the truth, Jude instructed believers to “keep yourselves in the love of God.”
- We may wonder what Jude meant by this instruction, because we know that no matter what happens in the life of a believer, he is always surrounded by God’s love. Even when a child of God disobeys the Lord, God doesn’t stop loving him. He will never withdraw His love from his children. Even when

the Lord disciplines His children, it is done in love. So what did Jude mean when he wrote to believers who were in conflict over false teachers, “keep yourselves in the love of God”?

- Remember, the believers to whom Jude was writing were being deceived by false teachers and Jude was seeking to motivate them to contend for the truth. He began by pointing out what kind of men these false teachers were, and now he turns his focus to the believers and the hope that is theirs in Christ.
- Jude reminds his readers of the great and matchless love that God has for them and encourages them to rest in it. The more that we Christians grasp the magnitude of God’s love, the more it will motivate us to love Him, love others, and to live godly lives (**2 Corinthians 5:14**). This will also motivate us to value the church and stand up for truth. (**I John 4:18**)
- If we don’t live in the enjoyment of God’s love, we learn to fear, for there will always be trials and struggles that come into our lives. When we are not resting in God’s love, we become consumed with worry and often plan and scheme our way through life. At that point, it’s impossible for us to rest and trust in the character of God.
- We should be anticipating deliverance from all our problems through the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. After reminding them of the love of God, Jude points them to the mercy of Christ, manifested in the fact that He’ll be returning to take us to heaven with Himself. As we face the difficulties and battles here in this life, it’s easy to get in the flesh and become consumed by difficult and trying daily circumstances, but the problems of life will come to an end. Because of His great mercy, the Lord Jesus has promised to return and take us to be with Him in heaven (**John 14:1-4**).

E. Rescuing the Weaker Brothers

*“And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”
Jude 22-23*

- Jude is now bringing to the attention of those who are strong in their faith, others who are wavering, doubting and in danger of being led astray. He encourages strong ones to have compassion on the weak; not merely to pity, but rather, draw alongside and remind them of the truths that they had heard in the past.

- In the flesh, our tendency will be to become judgmental rather than compassionate, and our desire will be to motivate by shame rather than love and grace.
- “Others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire.” It’s important that we keep the context in view, which is, unbelieving false teachers seeking to lead believers astray from the truth. Therefore, the imagery here is that there are those in the church who are wavering in the truth, teetering on the fence about to follow after false teachers. Jude writes, help those who are wavering to be established truth.
- There are also those who have already embraced and accepted this false teaching. These are those who have fallen into the “fire,” and our ministry to them must be different. If a blind person was walking and heading into a fire, we would come alongside to guide them in the right direction away from the fire. But, if we didn’t see that person until they had already fallen into the fire, the intensity of our help would be a lot more serious and intense. We would grab that person by whatever we could latch onto and pull him or her out of the fire. The strong in faith, which are spiritual, must be more intense and serious about getting folks out of this deception (fire) (**Galatians 6:1**).
- Believers should be “hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.” Jude is qualifying the seriousness of helping deceived believers from following false teachers. These teachers were so vile and wicked in what they stood for, that Jude commented he even hated the sight of their pompous clothing.

F. The Solution

“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, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 24-25

- God is able to keep His children from stumbling. Through this letter, Jude has been warning his readers about the cunning, deceitful ways of the false teachers. The natural tendency of the church leaders may have been to fear, worry, and then set out to deal with this in their own strength and understanding. So, Jude points them back to God, reminding them that only God can truly lead, guide, direct, and protect them from being deceived and keep them from falling into sin and false teaching.

- Jude rightfully calls God, “our Savior.” God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all involved in our salvation. Before the world was created, God planned our salvation and the Lord Jesus was appointed to be the One who would die for our sins. When God’s appointed time came, Jesus was born the child of a virgin through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus lived his life on earth by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit led Him as He offered Himself to God to die for mankind. Three days after the Lord Jesus’ death and burial, the Father raised Him from the dead to be our Savior.
- God, our Savior is the only One who is worthy of all “glory, majesty, dominion and authority.” He should be given the praise and glory for all things. He alone has the right to rule over the universe with absolute authority. He has this right because He is God, the mighty Creator and the only Savior. At this time in history, most people don’t acknowledge God as the rightful Ruler, but when He has finished working out His plan, all created beings will agree that He alone is God and they will bow before Him as Lord (**I Corinthians 15:24-28**).

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