



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Being Faithful to God

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**The Epistle of Jude** (AD 68-70), considered one of the general epistles, likely author was Jude. Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ and the brothers (Mt 13:55) of Joseph, Simon and James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church and the Jerusalem Council. While Jude had initially rejected Jesus as the Messiah (Jn 7:1-9), he, along with other half-brothers of Jesus accepted Jesus as the Messiah after Christ's resurrection (Ac 1:14). Jude likely wrote this epistle from Jerusalem and while the exact audience is unknown it was likely to Jewish believers and to a body or region that was under the influence of and plagued by false teachers. While Christianity and Christians were under political attack from Rome, the bigger threat to the church was false doctrine being preached by gnostic-like apostates. Jude sites OT examples of rebellion and rejection to God and the character traits of these apostates. Jude calls the church to fight for the truth. How are the beloved or Christians to respond to these false teachers? (Jude 20-23 NASB)

*"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life" (20-21)*

**Grow Spiritually and Be Discerning.** Jude provide direction to his fellow brothers and sisters in the faith by sharing that in order to grow spiritually and to be discerning, believers are called to grow in their knowledge of God's will and truth as shared through His word. Knowing the truth will enable a believer to discern between a truthful teacher and a false teacher. False teachers will be found out by understanding the truth and that truth is found in God's word. Paul likens this knowledge of the truth as a resource in the battle for truth and specifically as a sword when he refers to God's Word as *"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* (Eph 6:17)

**Pray in the Holy Spirit.** Jude directs the believers to pray in the Holy Spirit. Paul also directs believers to; *"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,"* (Eph 6:18) Praying in the Spirit is a directive to pray in the will and the power of the Holy Spirit. In his letter to the Romans Paul shares, *"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."* (Rm 8:26-27)

**Remain Faithful to God's Will.** Jude is telling the believers to, *"keep yourselves in the love of God"*, being obedient and faithful to God's will for their lives. Paul also similarly shares in his letter to the Philippian church, *"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."* (Php 2:12-13) Jude calls the believers to remain faithful.

**Anxiously Anticipate Christ Return.** God mercy is revealed in the sacrifice of His only Son to pay the price of sin for those that call and believe that Jesus Christ is their Savior and Lord. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."* (Jn 3:16) Jude is sharing the hope that a believer has in a risen Lord and the anxious anticipation of His return and their eternal life with Him. How additionally are the beloved to treat the victims of those false teachers?

*"And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."* (22-23)

**Mercy on Some.** Jude is likely referring to the victims of the apostate teachers and that the believer is to have mercy and compassion with these people because they still doubt and have not reached a conclusion about Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

**Save Others.** Jude is likely referring to a second group of victims that have bought in to the teaching of the apostates. With this group Jude still calls for mercy but suggest sharing the believers faith in a more direct and immediate manner that they may be snatched from the fire.

**Have Mercy with Fear.** Jude third group of victims suggest those that have bought in to the teachings of the false teacher and have the ability to persuade others. Jude directs the beloved to have mercy on them as well, yet be fearful of their teachings so that the faithful aren't drawn in to the false teachings; *"hating even the garment polluted by the flesh."* The false teachings could pollute or contaminate the well-meaning believer faith.

### For Your Consideration:

- Are you daily in God's word and can you discern false teaching and true teaching?
- Do you pray in the Holy Spirit? Looking for and joyful in God's will?
- Are you, *"waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life"*?

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44