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## Contend for the Faith

By Shannon Ford on October 21, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: Jude

In the first 16 verses of his epistle, Jude makes his case against false teachers. But starting in verse 17, he focuses on discernment and mercy as requirements for his readers. Discernment is needed to not get carried away by false teaching and also to show mercy to those who have been influenced by false teachers.

In verse 17-19, Jude warns his readers by quoting the apostles. We do not know which of the apostles' writings Jude's readers were aware of, but we can certainly see from the New Testament scriptures that the apostles often warned of false teachers (see Acts 20:29-31; Colossians 2:4; 1 Timothy 4:1-3). Jude offers five ways to stay faithful and defend against false teachers in verses 20-22. These are not onetime events, but ongoing requirements.

- 1) Build yourself up in faith.
- 2) Pray in the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Stay within the love of God.
- 4) Wait eagerly for the return of Christ.
- 5) Show mercy to those unstable in their faith.

If we are going to be contenders for the faith and guard the gospel that we have been entrusted with, we must apply these requirements that Jude offers. Also, as God's children we can survive the false teachers we face because of the Person on whom we place our faith. Jesus is able to keep us from falling and help us contend for the faith. The idea behind the word *able* is the concept of power, which is the focus of these last verses. God is powerful enough to protect His children from the sins and false teachings that are in this world. In his final words of praise, Jude describes God as worthy of all honor and in His completeness, He saves us, protects us and uses us to reach out to others and share the lifesaving message of the gospel.

**PRAYER:** Lord, I pray we will not sit idly by and let the false teachings and ideologies of the culture harm the church's testimony. I pray we will "contend for the faith" (Jude 3). Through the Holy Spirit, help us stand against false teachings and declare the truths from God's Word. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Revelation 1

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