

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE

JUDE'S COMMAND--"EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH"
"THE FAITH?"-PART 2 (JUDE 3 CONTINUED)

INTRODUCTION

Thus far we have seen that "*THE FAITH*" consists of 1) THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST which of necessity includes 2) THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST of which both of these are the theme of 3) THE WORD OF GOD which teaches us the 4) FUNDAMENTALS OF "*THE FAITH*" that we must "*earnestly contend for*" because our faith is vitally linked to each of these fundamentals. Remember a "*fundamental*" is a foundational principle. If any of the fundamentals are omitted, you don't have true Christianity!

I. COMMANDS CONCERNING "*THE FAITH.*"

A. Examine Yourselves, Whether Ye Be In "*The Faith.*"
(2 Corinthians 13:5; Cf. Matthew 7:21-23)

(e.g. Judas Iscariot; Rich Young Ruler; me.)

B. Continue In "*The Faith.*"
"*Continue*" means "*to stay in the same place; to persevere*"
Acts 14:22– Paul and Barnabas were "*Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith. . .*"

Colossians 1:23– "*. . . continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard. . .*"

"*Continue*" means "*to stay over; to remain; i.e. to persevere*"

C. Stand Fast In "*The Faith.*"
1 Corinthians 16:13– "*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*"

"*Stand Fast*" means "*to be stationary; to persevere.*"

"*I Shall Not Be Moved!*"

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D. Strive Together For "*The Faith.*"

Philippians 1:27– "*Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*"

"*Striving together*" means "*to wrestle in company with; to seek jointly*"

E. Be Stablished In "*The Faith*" Abounding Therein With Thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6-7– "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*"

"*Stablished*" means "*to stabilize*" (confirm; establish)

F. Hold The Mystery Of "*The Faith*" In A Pure Conscience.
1 Timothy 3:9– "*Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.*" (To pastors, bishops, elders)

"*Holding*" means "*to have in your possession*"

G. Keep (Or Guard) "*The Faith.*"

2 Timothy 4:7– "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*"

"*Kept*" means "*to guard by keeping an eye on.*"

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H. Resist Satan In "*The Faith.*"

1 Peter 5:8-9-- "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: **Whom resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

"*The faith*" is what gives us what we need to be able to "*resist steadfast*" the devil. (*Ephesians 6:10ff*)

I. Earnestly Contend For "*The Faith.*"

Jude 3-- "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."

(i.e. "*To struggle for*")

Biblical examples of-- *Nehemiah 13:11, 17, 25* also see *Acts 11:1ff*.

We are to contend for the faith, but we are to do so without being contentious!

Proverbs 13:10-- "Only **by pride cometh contention**: (a quarrel)"

Proverbs 17:14-- "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off **contention**, before it be meddled with." (a contest--personal or legal)

Proverbs 18:6-- "A fool's lips enter into **contention**, and his mouth calleth for strokes."

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Proverbs 22:10-- "Cast out the scorner, and **contention** shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease." (a contest or quarrel)

Proverbs 26:21-- "As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife."

1 Corinthians 1:10-11-- "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are **contentions** among you." (i.e. **contentions arise out of preferences regarding personalities**)

("Contentions" here means "a quarrel or wrangling--to dispute or quarrel angrily and noisily")

1 Corinthians 11:16-- "But if any man seem to be **contentious**, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." ("Contentious" here means "fond of strife")

Titus 3:9-- "But **avoid** foolish questions, and genealogies, and **contentions**, and strivings about the law; **for they are unprofitable and vain.**" (useless and empty--without profit)

Acts 15:37-39--(dispute in anger)

2 Timothy 4:11-- Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

So we are to contend (*struggle for*) the faith without being contentious.

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