

**CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE
APOSTATES OTHER CHARACTERISTICS
JUDE 16-21**

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Introduction

We had been looking at some Characteristics Of Apostates when we came to verses 14-15. For the last two weeks we have looked at Enoch’s Life and Enoch’s preaching! Last week we saw Jude mention how Enoch preached that the LORD is coming to judge apostasy and apostates for their **ungodliness**. Tonight we see that Jude then shared some additional Characteristics of Apostates to help us know who they are and to help us to not be influenced by them!

I. APOSTATES ARE MURMURERS AND COMPLAINERS!

(Vs 16a)

A. Murmurers – means “*grumblers.*”

It can mean:

“To make low, unintelligible sounds in the throat.”

“To mutter in discontent.”

“To complain in a bad-tempered manner.”

Some Scriptural examples:

1. **Matthew 20:1-15** – i.e. “*We’re not being treated fairly.*”(The laborers in the vineyard.)

2. **Luke 5:27-32** – i.e. “*Why are you doing that?*”

3. **John 6:30-43** –

John 6:41 “The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. 42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?”

i.e. “*You don’t know what you’re talking about.*”
(“Who does He think He is anyway?”)

4. **1 Corinthians 10:10** – Is a verse that refers to the time when Israel got the evil report from the ten spies.

1 Corinthians 10:10–“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Cf. Numbers 14:1-5

Murmurers...

B. Complainers.

This is the only place that we find this word that is translated “*complainers*” in the New Testament (in the Greek or English)

It means “*blaming fate, that is, discontented. Inclined to find fault; fretful. Characterized by complaining.*”

These do not have the peace of God in their hearts; therefore, they are not content with their lot in life!

They are often dissatisfied with:

their position (not high enough)...

their recognition and honor (not enough)...

and their trials, sufferings, and hardship (too much).

These folks have a general dissatisfaction with life!

Therefore, they often murmur, grumble, and complain.

Also, they don’t look to Christ to guide and help them through life! (Help is available!) They don’t look to the LORD for grace to help in time of need for what they are going through!

So, consequently they often plough through life all alone without the hand of God to help them and look after them!

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APOSTATES ARE MURMURERS AND COMPLAINERS!

II. APOSTATES WALK AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS! (Vs 16b)
They live after the flesh, in the lusts of the flesh!

They follow the passions of the flesh!

They indulge and gratify the flesh!

They teach their false doctrine for personal gain!

They desire to live like they want...

*2 Timothy 4:3-4—“3 For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**”*

They desire to do away with godly restraints and demands...

Psalms 2:3—“Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.”

They desire to gain recognition and honor and a following...

John 5:44—“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”

Galatians 5:16-26

III. APOSTATES SPEAK GREAT SWELLING WORDS IN ORDER TO SECURE GAIN FOR THEMSELVES! (Vs 16c)

“great swelling”— means “bulging.”

*2 Peter 2:18— “For when **they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.**”*

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They seek the admiration of men, rather than God in order to secure an advantage over others!

(i.e. Lobbying for their position to see how many they can get on their side so they can have the majority!)

IV. GUIDELINES FOR AVOIDING APOSTASY! (VS 17-23)

A. Remember The Teaching Of The Apostles! (Vs 17-19)

1. *Acts 20:29-30—“29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”*

2. *1 Timothy 4:1—“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

3. *2 Timothy 3:1-5*

4. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

5. *2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:3-5a*

B. Nurture Yourselves In The Things Of The Lord! (Vs 20-21)

1. **Building Up Yourselves On Your Most Holy Faith! (Vs 20a)**

Romans 10:17—“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”

2 Peter 3:18—“But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

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- 2. Praying In The Holy Ghost! (Vs 20b)**
That is, **praying out of hearts that are indwelt, filled, and illuminated by the Holy Spirit!**

It is praying in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 6:18—“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

- 3. Keeping Yourselves In The Love Of God! (Vs 21a)**
This does not indicate that salvation depends on one’s own efforts, for that would contradict other Scripture passages. (Vs 24)

Instead, a believer is nurtured as he is occupied with God’s love for Him and is in fellowship with God!

John 15:9-10—“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”

- 4. Looking For The Return Of The Lord! (Vs 21b)**
“Looking” means “looking expectantly.”

The Rapture will be the consummating evidence of His mercy bringing us to our eternal home in God’s own presence.

Titus 2:13—“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

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Conclusion

Are you building up your faith?

Are you praying in the Holy Spirit?

Are you keeping yourself in God’s love?

Are you looking expectantly for the return of the Lord?

If not, you are subject to being moved away from the faith by those who are apostate.