

# Jude

## **Only 25 Verses / Be on Guard**

The book of Jude is only 25 verses, but an in-depth 25 at that. Jude gives 8 Old Testament examples, which each in their own is a study. Jude writes this to the believers so that they may be on guard to watch out for men that have crept into the church and are leading people astray.

## **Another Message on False Teachers / Divine Assembly / Book of Revelation – 5 Lost Focus**

You may say here we go again, another message on false teachers and apostates. We studied them in 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, now here again in Jude, you know we would really like to hear things to help me with my marriage, raising my kids, controlling my temper, and the likes.....and I say divine assembly. Divine assembly in that these books were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and I personally believe so were there order. You see it is no coincidence that we have laid such a solid foundation in regards to false teaching as preparation before we start the Book of Revelation. For in the Book of Revelation we will see study the 7 churches and see 5 of them losing focus on the Word of God, leaving their first love, being led away from the Word and Works of God by leaders who were blind themselves. God gives each a warning, He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the Church:

*(Revelation 2:11 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

## **Revelation 17 / False Prophet**

In Revelation 17 we will see the establishment of a 1 World religious system, lead by the False Prophet, many will follow because they did not have ears to hear, they did not implant the Word deep in their heart.

## **Marriage Parenting – Struggles / Lead Away – Suffer Greatly / Even the Very Elect**

And you know in regard helps for my marriage and parenting, if you are lead away by false teaching, your marriage and children will suffer tremendously, maybe even to the point of destruction. Jesus said the delusion in the last days would be so strong, that even the very elect could be deceived:

*(Matthew 24:24 NKJV) "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."*

*(Matthew 24:25 NKJV) "See, I have told you beforehand."*

## **Problem Present Today / Very Convincing**

The problems Jude addresses then, still effect the church today. You know not all false teachers know that they are false teachers, in fact most of them believe they are the ones that are right, and the others are wrong, that is why they can convince so many people, because they themselves are convinced.

## **You will Lose / Anything Less is Less**

I have to add also, you may be saved, but when a believer is sucked into errant teaching they may not lose their salvation, but they will lose, for anything less than what God has for you, is less. Why settle for less.

## **Start**

The introduction and theme are in the first 4 verses so let's start there.

## **Outline for Jude:**

- Introduction - Author and Audience - (Jude 1:1-2)
- Theme - Reason for Writing - (Jude 1:3-4)
- Examples of Leaving the Blessings/Love of God - (Jude 1:5-7)
  - Example of the Children of Israel not entering Promised Land (1:5).
  - Example of Satan and Angels Rebelling in Heaven (1:6).
  - Example of Sodom and Gomorrah (1:7).
- Reasons for Leaving the Blessings/Love of God - (Jude 1:8-11)
  - Way of Cain (1:11)
  - Way of Balaam (1:11)

- Way of Korah (1:11)
- Exhortations on How to Keep Ourselves in the Blessings/Love of God (Jude 1:12)
  - Building yourselves up on your most holy faith (1:20)
  - Praying in the Holy Spirit (1:20)
  - Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (1:21)

### **Introduction - Author and Audience - (Jude 1:1-2)**

**(Jude 1:1 NKJV) Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:**

**(Jude 1:2 NKJV) Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.**

#### **Author / Half Brother**

Jude, the author of this epistle, was the brother of James, and both Jude and James were half brothers of Jesus (Mark 6:3). You can only imagine what it must have been being Jesus brother. Why He wasn't like the other kids, so perfect, such a goodie-to-sandals, He probably seemed to be from another world, and He was.

*(Mark 6:3 KJV) Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of **Juda**, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.*

#### **James Early Church leader / Gentiles – Circumcised /**

James was a leader in the early church, as seen in Acts 15, concerning the argument as to whether or not Gentiles converted to Christianity were required to undergo the rite of circumcision. The question was debated until James stood, and quoting the prophet Amos (9:11–12), said Gentiles did not need to become Jews first and did not need to be circumcised in order to become Christians because God has His called ones even among the heathen.

#### **James Understood Grace / Initially did not Believe**

Perhaps the reason James grasped this kind of grace so firmly is that, although he had grown up in the same household as Jesus, initially he did not believe His Brother was the Son of God (John 7:5):

*(John 7:3 NKJV) His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing.*

*(John 7:4 NKJV) "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."*

*(John 7:5 NKJV) **For even His brothers did not believe in Him.***

*(John 7:6 NKJV) Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.*

#### **What Changed Mind – The Resurrection**

What changed James' and Jude's minds? What turned them from skeptics to leaders of the faith?

Nothing short of the Resurrection, for it is after that event that we see them numbered with the disciples in the Upper Room (Acts 1:14). Everything changes after the resurrection, isn't that true in your life too?

*(Acts 1:14 NKJV) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women **and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.***

#### **We think being Nice – Get Saved / Must Preach Christ**

Here is something to note, sometimes we think that by being nice—mowing our neighbor's lawn, baking him cookies, or smiling when he drives by—we will convert him. Not true. There was no lovelier person than Jesus Christ. Yet, His brothers did not believe on Him until the Cross and the Resurrection. That is why it is imperative to preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23). You can wave to your neighbor for twenty years, and wave him right into hell. Or you can take the time at some point to say, "You know what? Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead, and you must believe on Him."

*(1 Corinthians 1:23 NKJV) but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,*

#### **Written To / Theological Terms of Assurance / Trinity – Keeping Us**

*Verse 1b - To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: - Notice to those who are called, sanctified, and preserved. All theological terms, all terms used when talking of a believer, all terms we use for assurance of salvation. Notice also the presence and activity of the trinity in that person's life. Sanctified (set-apart) by the Father, for He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it (Phil 1:6). Preserved (kept) by Jesus Christ, no one can snatch you out of My hand*

(John 10:28). And there is the Holy Spirit working in the background never drawing attention to Himself. Had it not been for the Holy Spirit's wooing in our lives none of us would have heard the calling of God. All 3 active in our lives, yet still we are called to be on guard, to be alert:

*(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

*(John 10:28 NKJV) "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

### **Saved by Grace**

*Verse 2 - Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.* – I meditate on this verse and remember where He pulled me from, the emptiness of my heart, the sinfulness of my life, and I am reminded that I was no one, and that I was saved by grace by a God of love. Nothing more, nothing less.

### **Theme - Reason for Writing - (Jude 1:3-4)**

**(Jude 1:3 NKJV) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

**(Jude 1:4 NKJV) For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Original Intent / False Teachers / 2 things – Grace to Flesh / Denying Jesus**

Jude saying I originally wanted to write about our salvation, a letter of joy, a feel good Sunday sermon, but I find it necessary to warn you about something that can hurt you. Jude's original intent was to write about our "common salvation." That is, his was to be a letter celebrating the grace and goodness of God. But it took a different turn when an issue arose that he felt pressed to address. False teachers had crept into the early church, seeking to rob and rip off God's people, seeking to pervert their understanding and keep them from enjoying God's blessing. He points out two things they were doing, using the grace of God to indulge in their flesh, and denying that there was only one way, and that through Jesus Christ.

### **Description of Them**

Jude gives descriptions of them

- Spots in love feast (v.12) – hidden rocks ready to sink you.
- Rainless clouds (v.12) – always a promise but never delivering
- Fruitless tree (v.12) – trees with leaves but no fruit
- Raging waves (v.13) – stirring up a bunch of foams
- Wandering Stars (v.13) (shooting stars) – here today gone tomorrow.
- Great Swelling Words (v.16) – peddling phony words

### **Be on Guard / Be Alert / KEEP YOURSELF**

Jude says watch out, be on the alert, they have crept in, so much so you haven't noticed therefore I had to write and tell you they were there. Jude says what I want for you is to keep your self in the love of God:

*(Jude 1:20 NKJV) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*

*(Jude 1:21 NKJV) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

### **Foundational Theme**

The foundational theme of this wonderful epistle, as found in verse 21, is an exhortation to keep ourselves in the love of God. Underline this phrase because it is the hinge upon which the Book of Jude swings. Jude's heart is, "Yes, there are heretics and deceivers, but you, beloved, keep yourselves in the love of God."

### **Not Mean Earning God's Love / His Love Unconditional / Loved while Yet Pagans**

Keeping yourself in the love of God does not mean earning God's love by being a "good little boy or girl." God's love is unconditional—so much so that in Romans 5:8, Paul declares that God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. When did God demonstrate His love for you and me? Not when we were trying to be good Christians, but when we were pagans, heathens,

and rebels. When you couldn't have cared less about Him, God looked at you and said, "I love you deeply:

*(Romans 5:8 NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### **No Cosmic Santa / No List**

Never buy into the thinking that you earn God's love by being good. Many Christians look at God as being like Santa: He's making a list, checking it twice, and He's going to find out who's naughty and who's nice. If you've been good, you'll get gifts; if not, you'll be lucky to get a lump of coal.

### **No List / Nailed to Cross - Illegible**

But nothing could be further from the nature of our Father. Making a list? Checking it twice? Paul tells us the list of our failings was blotted out by the blood of Christ (Colossians 2:14). The list of my sins was pinned to the Cross of Calvary and cleansed so thoroughly by the blood of the Lamb that the writing became completely illegible. God's love for us is not based upon anything we do or don't do, for His love is unconditional:

*(Colossians 2:13 NKJV) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,*

*(Colossians 2:14 NKJV) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

### **What Does it Mean – Keeping Self / Stay in Place where Blessing Flow**

What, then, does it mean to keep yourself in the love of God? It simply means to keep yourself in the place where you can receive His blessings.

### **His Blessings Flow Continually / New Every Morning**

In other words, God is constantly showering us with blessings, love, and grace. He's not saying, "Hmm, you've been bad today, so I'm turning off the spigot." No, God's blessings are always coming down (Lamentations 3:23):

*(Lamentations 3:21 NKJV) This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.*

*(Lamentations 3:22 NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

*(Lamentations 3:23 NKJV) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

*(Lamentations 3:24 NKJV) "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

*(Lamentations 3:25 NKJV) The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.*

### **Why Am I not Blessed / Spigot Open – Even when we Unfaithful / No Monitor on Spigot**

"Then why aren't I being blessed?" you ask. The answer is easy: You're not under the spout where the blessings come out. You have wandered away. God didn't close the spigot—because even when we are faithless, He is faithful still (2 Timothy 2:13). God doesn't monitor the flow of blessings depending on how we're doing. No, the spigot is on full blast all the time. Therefore, the only thing we have to do is to make sure we're in the place where we enjoy God's blessings—that we're standing under the spout where the blessings come out:

*(2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV) If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

### **You can Miss His Blessings / Moved Away / 3 Examples / Apply False Teachers - Personally**

Am I suggesting it is possible for a person to remove himself from the place of God's blessings? Yes. And Jude gives us three examples of those who did. These 3 examples are of people that left the blessings of God. They apply to these false teachers and leaders, but they can also apply to us, for the same can happen to us if we leave the place where the blessings flow.

### **Leaving the Blessings of God - (Jude 1:5-10)**

**(Jude 1:5 NKJV) But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.**

### **Remembrance of Egypt Delivery / Moses – 10 Plagues – Red Sea / Delivered Like You and Me**

First, Jude brings to remembrance the people delivered by God. You know the story. In bondage for four hundred years, the Israelites cried out to the Lord. The Lord raised up Moses as a deliverer and worked powerfully through him. After He smote Egypt with ten plagues, the Israelites were finally released. They

made it to the edge of the Red Sea, where God not only parted the water but also unleashed the very same water on their enemies. They were delivered from their bondage, just like you and I were.

### **Next / Border of Kadesh Barnea / 12 Spies - Huge Grapes – Huge Giants / We Grasshoppers**

Then what happened? They came to the border of Kadesh Barnea and sent twelve spies to scope out the land. “Wow!” said the spies upon their return. “It’s beautiful. It’s prolific, productive, and perfect! There’s only one problem: Tens of thousands of Anakim, giant occupy the land. We’re nothing but grasshoppers in their sight, and we’re sure to be squished.”

### **Joshua – Caleb / They Grasshoppers in God’s Sight / We will Eat them Up**

Joshua and Caleb, two of the twelve spies, countered, saying, “Hey, we might be grasshoppers in their sight, but they’re grasshoppers in God’s sight. Therefore, they pose no problem. They’ll be bread for us. We can eat them up!” (see Numbers 14:9):

*(Numbers 14:9 NKJV) "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."*

### **People Didn’t Believe / God Sentenced them to Wander 40 Years**

But the people chose to listen to the other ten spies instead of to Joshua and Caleb—a choice that led God to say, “Okay, because you don’t believe what I intended to do for you, you’re going to have to wander in the wilderness until a new generation is raised up” (see Numbers 14:22-23).

*(Numbers 14:22 NKJV) "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,*

*(Numbers 14:23 NKJV) "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.*

### **People Delivered – didn’t Keep Assurance / Desert – Left the Spigot**

Thus, because God’s people, who were delivered by Him, did not keep themselves in the assurance of His love and provision, they ended up dying in the desert. They left the place where the spigot flows.

### **New Believers / Settled back into Life**

There are lots of new believers, you have been saved now 2-3 years, you can remember the deliverance from Egypt, you can remember the excitement watching all God was doing in your life, but now it is 2-3 years later and you the newness has worn off, you don’t cling to Him as before, you have settled back into life. You may not be going out to the bars and what not, but you have grown weary in your walk. Church, the Word, prayer, ministry, doesn’t carry that excitement that it once did, and you are not going forward in your walk. It is common for many, you are not alone. But you have left the place where the spigot of God’s blessings flows.

### **The Walk is Hard**

My Christian brothers and sister let me assure you of something, the Christian walk is hard. There is that honeymoon phase when you first get saved, but there is a time when you will have to fight the giants in the land. God will be with you, in fact He will do the battle for you, but you will be present at the fight.

When the Children of Israel cross over the Jordan, God will command the priests to step out in faith over the water. At the Red Sea God parted the waters, at the Jordan they had to step out in faith:

*(Joshua 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.*

*(Joshua 3:12 NKJV) "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.*

*(Joshua 3:13 NKJV) "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."*

### **Requires Sacrifice**

Walking in faith is hard, it requires sacrifice, and it will always seem easier to stay in the wilderness, but you will miss out on the blessings God has for you, for where ever the spigot of His blessings is flowing, that is where you want to be. If that is where you are at today, I pray you take this to prayer, and ask the Lord if you have left the place where the blessings are flowing, and are now content to just wander in the wilderness.

**(Jude 1:6 NKJV) And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**

### **Second / Worshipers of God can Leave / Satan Did**

Second, not only can those delivered by God fail to keep themselves in the love of God (leave the place where blessings flow), but so can those who are worshipers of God. Lucifer was the leader of all the worshipers of heaven. The one the Bible calls the "Anointed Cherub" (Ezekiel 28:14) had a voice like a pipe organ and hands like tambourines. He wasn't just a worship leader, he was a full on orchestra until the day he said, "I will be like God," and launched a rebellion in which one third of the angels followed him (Ezekiel 28:14 NKJV) *"You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.*

(Ezekiel 28:15 NKJV) *You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!*

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'*

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) *Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

(Revelation 12:4 NKJV) *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.*

(Revelation 12:5 NKJV) *She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) *Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

(Revelation 12:7 NKJV) *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,*

(Revelation 12:8 NKJV) *but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

### **Amazing Worshipers of Heaven – Demons of Hell / Lost the Fear of the Lord**

Amazing. Here, the worshipers of God in heaven became demons in hell because they did not keep themselves in the love of God. They lost the fear of the Lord. When a person loses the fear of the Lord, they enter the same place the Devil and the demons did. They became critical, they questioned God, they left their place of worship.

### **We can be Like That / Critical of God / Leave place of Worship**

We can be like that. We can leave the place of praise and enter the place of question. Why God, why haven't you given me this, or have given me that. How could you, how couldn't you. We leave that place of praise and become critical of all that is going on in our lives. We become critical of others, and critical of God. We forget verse 2, we were just nobodies saved by grace by a God of love.

### **Worship is Wonderful - Become what you Worship / Worship Jesus changed to His Glory**

Now worship is wonderful. In Psalm 115 it says what we worship is what we become like. It says if you worship a dumb idol that is what you will become. But we who worship Jesus Christ will become like Jesus Christ. We will be changed from glory into greater glory:

(Psalms 115:4 NKJV) *Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.*

(Psalms 115:5 NKJV) *They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;*

(Psalms 115:6 NKJV) *They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell;*

(Psalms 115:7 NKJV) *They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat.*

(Psalms 115:8 NKJV) *Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.*

(2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV) *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

### **Leaving Place of Worship – Place where Spigot Flows**

Leaving the place of worship is leaving the place where the spigot flows.

**(Jude 1:7 NKJV) as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

### **Third / Sodom & Gomorrah**

Third, Jude says, "Not only can you be delivered by God and be a worshiper of God, but you can receive blessing from God and still fail to keep yourself in His love." You see, at one time, Sodom and Gomorrah were cities uniquely blessed by God. In the agrarian economy of the day, the place to be was Sodom or Gomorrah.

### **Lot saw a Blessed City / Great for Cattle – Lousy for Kids**

We read in Genesis 13 that after leaving Egypt, Abraham and Lot had so much livestock between them that the land could no longer support them. "We're going to have to separate," Abraham said to Lot. "Wherever you want to go, I'll go in the opposite direction." So, after checking out the situation, Lot found the best pasture land, the ideal place to raise livestock, the perfect place to get rich: the plain of Jordan, wherein lay Sodom and Gomorrah. It was a great place to raise cattle, a lousy place to raise kids.

### **Sin of Sodom**

The sin of Sodom was they had an abundance of free time as a result of living in such a blessed land: *(Ezekiel 16:49 NKJV) "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*

### **Not Much more to Say**

There isn't much more to say about this, don't need to. It is so easy to let the abundance we have been blessed with, turn us away, draw us away from where the spigot of God is flowing.

### **One Time was Blessed – But turned Backs**

At one time, Sodom and Gomorrah were truly blessed by God. Yet, what happened? They turned their backs on the Lord and were eventually destroyed. This is very sobering to me because it says,

- So you've been saved—so were they who wandered in the wilderness.
- So you've been a worshiper—so were they who are now in hell as demons.
- So you've been blessed—so were they who were destroyed by their own depravity.

### **Possible to be Delivered – Partake – Receive / Not Keep Yourself**

Gang, it is possible to experience deliverance by God, to partake in worship to God, to receive blessing from God, and still not keep yourself in the love of God. Beloved, make sure you are where the spigot is flowing, and get yourself under it.

# Jude 1:8-25

(Jude 1:3 NKJV) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

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## Original Intent / False Teachers / 2 things – Grace to Flesh / Denying Jesus

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## Foundational Theme

The foundational theme of this wonderful epistle, as found in verse 21, is an exhortation to keep ourselves in the love of God. Underline this phrase because it is the hinge upon which the Book of Jude swings. Jude's heart is, "Yes, there are heretics and deceivers, but you, beloved, keep yourselves in the love of God."

## What Does it Mean – Keeping Self / Stay in Place where Blessing Flow

What, then, does it mean to keep yourself in the love of God? It simply means to keep yourself in the place where you can receive His blessings, keep yourself underneath the spigot of where God's blessings flow. We then looked at 3 examples of those who did not keep themselves under the spigot, in the place where they could continue to receive the love and blessings for God.

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- Way of Cain (1:11)
- Way of Balaam (1:11)
- Way of Korah (1:11)
- Exhortations on How to Keep Ourselves in the Blessings/Love of God (Jude 1:20-21)
  - Building yourselves up on your most holy faith (1:20)
  - Praying in the Holy Spirit (1:20)
  - Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (1:21)

### **3 Examples / Now 3 Reasons / 3 Exhortations**

So Jude gave us 3 examples of leaving the love of God, now he will give us 3 reasons that people leave the love of God, and then 3 exhortations on how we can keep ourselves in the love of God.

### **Mundane & Repetitive / Off Course – On Course**

To some you may say I know all this, it is kind of mundane and repetitive to me, maybe you may even be thinking it is boring. Beloved, don't tune out on the power that is flowing through what appears to be mundane and repetitive. You know there are many people that when I look back after preparing this study and say I wish so and so would be here to hear this, for it would change their life, readjust and recalibrate their compass for they are way off course, but the simple fact is, they are off course, because they are not putting themselves in the place where God's blessings flow. But you however, those that continue here in the Word, fellowship, devotions, you are continuing to stay on course.

### **Peter Reminds**

*(2 Peter 1:12 NKJV) For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.*

*(2 Peter 1:13 NKJV) Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,*

### **Verses 8-10 / Leaves Accountability**

Verse 8-10, Jude tells us the arrogance of these false teachers and how they have no accountability. There appears to be a pattern in peoples lives, that once they leave the place of accountability, they shortly thereafter leave the place of God.

**(Jude 1:8 NKJV) Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.**

**(Jude 1:9 NKJV) Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"**

**(Jude 1:10 NKJV) But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.**

### **Michael Archangel / No Need Identify Demonic Spirits / God in Between / Dwell on Light**

So these false teachers are arrogant enough to contend with God, even though we see the chief angel Michael would not contend with Satan who was created by God, these men are pure arrogance fill with foolishness. It is important to note here, that Michael, the chief angel, that's what arch means, even he didn't mess with satan; said the Lord rebuke you, he put God between him and the devil. I say this because you may come across Christians who will lay this stuff on you about having to identify each individual demonic spirit. They will say you have to identify which one is battling against you, and then you can battle it by saying, "ok demon of alcohol, I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, ok demon of cellulite I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." Listen beloved, when satan is battling against you, you put Dad in between you and satan, and you say Dad go get him. Notice Michael doesn't say I rebuke you in the name of Jesus, but he says, the Lord rebuke you. Michael removed himself from the equation, and so should we. The devil is no match for Dad, Dad doesn't even have to leave His chair, He sends an angel to do it in Revelation 20:

*(Revelation 20:1 NKJV) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*(Revelation 20:2 NKJV) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

In the presence of God's light, all darkness must flee. Don't spend your time focusing and studying the darkness, spend your time in the Light, and the darkness will flee. Dwell on the Light and in the Light!

### **3 Reasons**

So we saw the 3 examples of someone leaves the place where God's blessings and love flows, but how does a person that was once blessed by God, move away from God? Verse 11 gives us 3 examples:

- *They have gone in the way of Cain*
- *They have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit*
- *They perished in the rebellion of Korah*

**(Jude 1:11 NKJV) Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.**

### **Would have Chosen / Big 3 / We all Susceptible / All Can Keep Us Away**

In these 3 we will see anger, greed, and envy. Now I wouldn't have chosen anger, greed, and envy as the three reasons people move away from God's blessings. I would have listed cocaine, pornography, and larceny. Why? Because those things are not my problem. You see, we tend to think the sins that will take a man away from the spout where God's blessings come out are the biggies don't we. Not true. God has an entirely different way of looking at things. For we are all open to anger, greed, and envy and in His Word, He says through Jude to me and to you, "These are three specific areas that will keep you from enjoying and experiencing My love."

### **Way of Cain / Anger / Anger took Root**

1.) *Verse 11 - For they have gone in the way of Cain* - The first explanation for why people no longer experience the love of God in their lives is that they've gone the way of Cain. The way of Cain is anger. Cain was angry with his brother, Abel, because God blessed Abel, but He didn't bless Cain. It's not fair, Cain must have thought. We both offered sacrifices to God. Abel brought a lamb, and I brought the fruit of my labor from the garden, but God blessed my brother's and not mine (see Genesis 4:4, 5). And such anger took root in Cain's heart that he killed his brother.

### **If Angry with Spouse – Boss – Brother / You've gone Way of Cain / Draw away from Spout**

If you're angry with your spouse, bitter toward your boss, unforgiving of your brother, you have gone the way of Cain. Watch out for anger, gang. It'll pull you away from the place where you just enjoy God's love. It will draw you away from the spout where the blessings come out. I might also note that your anger towards another may cause them to leave the place of blessing because you may arouse them to anger.

### **Way of Balaam / Greed / Israel on way to Promised Land / Balak King of Moabites**

2.) *Verse 11 - have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit* - Jude draws our attention not only to the anger of Cain but also to the greed of Balaam. You know Balaam's story. The children of Israel, all two - three million of them, were on their way to the Promised Land. "Whoa," said Balak, king of the Moabites. "There's a horde of people coming our way, and unless we do something, we're going to get trampled."

### **Balak sends Messengers to Balaam / God says No**

Knowing of a prophet in the area named Balaam, Balak sent messengers asking him to curse the approaching Israelites. "Wait here," Balaam said to the messengers, "I must talk to God about this." Even before Balaam asked, the Lord told him not to curse the Israelites (Numbers 22:9-12). So the messengers returned to Balak with word of Balaam's refusal to join them. Balak, in turn, sent some VIPs to Balaam.

### **Next in Mercedes / We'll bless You**

They arrived in their Mercedes and their flashy clothes, saying, "Come with us, and you'll be blessed."

### **Balaam – Even Silver & Gold – No / Hint Hint**

"Listen, guys," said Balaam, "even if you offered me a house full of silver and gold (hint, hint), I wouldn't go with you."

### **So Return with offer of Wealth / God Allows him to Go / Angel Appears / Dumb Donkey**

So once again, the messengers returned empty-handed. And yet, a third time they appeared before Balaam, this time offering him a portion of wealth and honor. A third time, Balaam said he would seek the Lord. But this time, God gave him permission to go, so off Balaam went. En route, however, an angel appeared to his donkey, causing the donkey to crash into a wall, smashing Balaam's foot in the process. "You dumb donkey. You crushed my foot," Balaam cried as he beat his donkey.

### **Why Beating Me – I'm Good Donkey / There's an Angel**

"Why are you beating me?" asked the donkey. "Haven't I been a good donkey all these years? I've never given you any problems. Don't you see there's an angel standing right here, preventing me from taking you where you ought not go?"

### **Talking Donkey couldn't Deter / Balaam can't Curse but Blesses**

Yet even a talking donkey could not deter Balaam, so he continued on, until at last he reached the mountain overlooking the Israelite camp. Opening his mouth to curse them, all that came out was blessing. "Hey!" said Balak, "I hired you to curse them, not to bless them! Maybe we should change locations." So they built another altar in a different location. Once more, Balaam stood to curse. And once more, all that came from his lips were words of blessing.

### **Balaam didn't Understand God's Grace / Israel Bring Curse Upon Self / Moababes**

The error of Balaam lay in the fact that he didn't understand God's grace. Balaam thought that because His people were rebellious and evil, God would surely want to destroy them. Consequently, knowing that even though he could not curse the Israelites, the Israelites could bring a curse upon themselves, Balaam told Balak to have the Moabite women parade themselves in front of the Jewish men. And during the romantic interludes that were sure to follow, the Moabite women would be able to introduce the Jewish men to their idols.

### **Balaam Right / They followed Moabites gods / Today Joined to Unbeliever**

Balaam was right. In the Book of Numbers, we read "the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods." The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and twenty-four thousand died as a result (Numbers 25:1–9). It is still true today if you join yourself with an unbeliever you will end up cursing yourself. You will have brought it upon yourself. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).

### **Balaam Spoke Beautiful Prophecies / Ends up Heretic/ Greed took him Over / Definition of Greed**

Why did Balaam, who spoke some of the most beautiful prophecies in all of the Old Testament about the coming of Messiah, end up a heretic and a loser? Because he did not keep himself in God's love. Why didn't he keep himself in God's love? Greed. What is greed? Never being satisfied, never being thankful, always wanting just a little more. Watch out, precious people. Greed will remove you from the spout where the blessings come out.

*(Numbers 24:2 NKJV) And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

*(Numbers 24:3 NKJV) Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,*

*(Numbers 24:4 NKJV) The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:*

*(Numbers 24:5 NKJV) "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!*

*(Numbers 24:6 NKJV) Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the waters.*

*(Numbers 24:7 NKJV) He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.*

*(Numbers 24:8 NKJV) "God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows.*

*(Numbers 24:9 NKJV) "He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?" "Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."*

### **Rebellion of Korah / Sin of Envy / Numbers 16 / 15K Died / Be Content**

3.) Verse 11 - and perished in the rebellion of Korah. - Korah's sin was envy. We find his story in Numbers 16: "Moses, who made you the big man on campus? I have just as much right to determine direction for this nation as you do." So saying, Korah led a rebellion that resulted in the deaths of nearly

fifteen thousand of God's people. Moses said ok tomorrow you stand by your tents and we will stand by ours, and we will ask God to open the earth and swallow up whomever He hasn't chosen, and thus God did. Beware of envy—of wanting someone else's position. A key to life is just being content with where God has you.

### **Joseph's Brother / Big Sleeves / the Big Boss**

Joseph's brothers were jealous. Joseph had a coat of many colors, or literally, a coat of "big sleeves." In Joseph's day, working men wore sleeveless coats, like vests, in order that their arms would be free to labor. But the bosses, the supervisors, the head honchos wore coats with big sleeves in which they could keep money and supplies—sort of like briefcases.

### **We see Big Sleeves – get Envious / Joseph's big Sleeves – big Problem**

Sometimes we look at someone else's big sleeves and say, "Boy, that guy's got it made." But Joseph's big sleeves were hardly an asset. You see, envious of Joseph's position, his brothers sold him as a slave to a group headed for Egypt. There, Joseph was eventually promoted to the position of head slave. No doubt some of his fellow prisoners looked at him and said, "Boy, I wish I had the coat of a head slave"—little knowing that even this coat would get him in trouble as he shed it to flee Mrs. Potiphar's advances (Genesis 39:12).

### **Just Rest / He'll Put You / be All Lord Wants / People Should want Develop – but Not Gain Position**

Just rest in the place God has you, gang. He'll put you right where you should be. This doesn't mean we shouldn't want to be all that the Lord would have us be. But there comes a point when we're no longer saying, "Lord, I want to develop the talents and abilities you've given me to the fullest degree," but rather, "I've got to do whatever it takes to gain that guy's position. I've got to be the guy with the big sleeves."

### **Korah – Ground Sucked him Up / You'll end in a Pit / World come Crashing Down**

What happened to Korah? The ground opened up and sucked him in (Numbers 16:31–33). Here's an easy way to find yourself in the pit: Be envious of another's position. You don't know what you're headed for; you don't see what you're getting into; and before you know it, your world will come crashing down upon you.

### **Dissertation on False Teachers**

Now Jude gives us a dissertation on these men, and it is not flattering:

**(Jude 1:12 NKJV) These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;**

**(Jude 1:13 NKJV) raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

**(Jude 1:14 NKJV) Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,**

**(Jude 1:15 NKJV) "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."**

**(Jude 1:16 NKJV) These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.**

Verse 12 - **These are spots in your love feasts** – The word spots there mean hidden rocks, like the kinds right under the water that you can't see but enough rock to rip the hull of the boat and sink it. The "certain men who crept in unnoticed" (verse 4) were those who, like Korah, Cain, and Balaam, endangered God's people, seeking to woo them away from the simplicity of God's grace. Jude calls them "spots." They're like hidden rocks, he says. They join in your fellowship, in your potluck dinners, in your celebration of the grace and goodness of God—but with a hidden agenda. Like hidden rocks, they blend in presently, but they will cause you to crash eventually. And then he goes on to use even stronger metaphors to describe these false teachers.

Verse 12 - **They are clouds without water** -. That is, they seem to say all sorts of wonderful things, but their teaching leads only to dry, discouraging days.

Verse 12 - **late autumn trees without fruit** - Because they're dead trees, they bear no fruit.

Verse 13 - **raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame** - They're wild waves. They have lots of motion, but erratic, meaningless, and wasted energy. Foam will never satisfy your thirst.

Verse 13 - **wandering stars** - Finally, Jude likens the false teachers to wandering—or shooting—stars. People come on the scene with all sorts of fantastic promises, all kinds of interesting doctrines, shining brightly for a month or two or three. Then when hard times came, or things didn't work out, like shooting stars, they fizzled, faded, and moved on to the next unsuspecting community.

Verse 16 - **and they mouth great swelling words** - The same problems Jude is addressing affect the body of Christ today. False teachers, "mouthing great swelling words," continue to peddle their phony doctrines to anyone who will listen. If you've been walking with the Lord very long, you know that as soon as one strange wind of doctrine blows through, another is sure to follow. When I hear of these "new things" my heart sinks, because I know it is just something else to distract God's kids.

**(Jude 1:17 NKJV) But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

**(Jude 1:18 NKJV) how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.**

**(Jude 1:19 NKJV) These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.**

### **Happy is the Man – Gospel Profoundly Simple**

Happy is the man or woman who understands that the gospel message is profoundly simple and simply profound. It's Jesus—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

### **3 Exhortations**

After giving us three examples of people who walked away from God's love and three explanations of why they did so, Jude now gives us three exhortations to keep ourselves in the love of God.

Exhortations on How to Keep Ourselves in the Blessings/Love of God (Jude 1:20-21)

- Building yourselves up on your most holy faith (1:20)
- Praying in the Holy Spirit (1:20)
- Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (1:21)

**(Jude 1:20 NKJV) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,**

**(Jude 1:21 NKJV) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

**Verse 20 - building yourselves up on your most holy faith** - The first way to keep yourself in the place where you're being drenched in the love of God is to build up your faith. How are we built up in faith? The Bible tells us very simply that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). That's it. To keep yourself in the love of God means that you continue to be a student of the Word. You build up your faith by taking in God's Word, by daily making the practice of spending time in Scripture a priority, by assembling with other believers to study the Word corporately (Hebrews 10:25).

*(Romans 10:17 NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

*(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,*

*(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**Verse 20 - praying in the Holy Spirit** - What does it mean to pray in the Holy Ghost? It means allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire your prayers, saying, "Lord, I don't want to come to You with my ideas and my agenda because I don't know what these things might lead to if You grant them to me. So I come to You, Lord, asking for Your Spirit to inspire me to pray. Guide my conversation, Lord. Help me to pray biblically, to be guided by Your Spirit even as I talk with You right now." Don't pray your prayer list and then move on to the next thing in your day, pray in the Spirit.

**Verse 21 - looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life** - Finally, we are to keep ourselves in the love of God by looking for the coming of Jesus. How it affects my priorities, how it changes my perspective, how it alters my emotions when I say, "Lord, today I'm going to look for Your coming." Today might be the day, dear saints. What a difference it makes when we remember this.

### **Faith – Spirit – Looking / Faith – Hope - Love**

Stay in the Word. Pray in the Spirit. Look for Jesus' coming—three things you can do to keep yourself under the spout where the blessings come out. They're practical, workable, doable—and, interestingly, we see in them faith, love, and hope: Faith, by being in the Word (Romans 10:17); love, by praying in the Spirit whose fruit is love (Galatians 5:22); and hope, by looking for the blessed hope of our Lord's return (Titus 2:13).

### **All You Talk About / Right On / Keeps Strong**

"All you guys at Calvary Chapel ever talk about is being in the Word, looking for His coming, and praying," some charge. "Right. Exactly. You got it!" I say—for that's exactly what Jude tells us to do in order to keep ourselves in God's love. It works, and it works well, show me a one who isn't strong in their faith who continue in these 3 things.

Again, I have to continue in systematic teaching or I won't continually come back to these things.

**(Jude 1:22 NKJV) And on some have compassion, making a distinction;**

**(Jude 1:23 NKJV) but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**

### **Those Affected / Show Compassion – Grab by the Neck**

What about those who have been affected by false teachers, who are caught up in wrong doctrine? What are we to do with them? Jude gives two approaches. To some, show compassion. Be very gentle with them as you patiently wait for them to see the light. Others, however, you have to grab by the nape of the neck and yank them out of the destructive stuff with which they're involved. Some people you can minister to with compassion, stressing the goodness of God, for doesn't Paul say in Romans 2:4 that it's the goodness of God that leads men to repentance? Others, however, you have to grab by the collar, and tell it like it is, listen my friend, the path you are on leads to hell, and I can't guarantee you once saved always saved for only God knows your heart.

### **Make Sure you Don't get Sucked In**

*Verse 23 - hating even the garment defiled by the flesh* - In the Old Testament, whenever a man was cleansed from leprosy—a picture of sin—his garments were to be burned (Leviticus 13:52). Jude uses this as an analogy to say, "When you're dealing with folks who are caught up in perversity, make sure you yourself are not affected." In other words, "Save the man, but burn the garment." We don't need to stay current on the movie scene in order to be able to understand them. Not do we need to go to the bar to witness to them. Nor read their perverse poems or journals, or web blogs they write. All we need to do is dwell in the Light, and point them to the Light.

**(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,**

**(Jude 1:25 NKJV) To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.**

### **Warning – Place of Rest**

Finally, after all of his warning, Jude leaves us in a place of rest, saying God is the One who will keep us from falling.

**Love Flowing / Get Under Spigot**

God's love is unconditional, never turned off, never diminished. The only question is: Will you plant yourself in the place where you can be drenched with it?

**Word – Prayer - Looking**

Jude tells us exactly how to do that as he exhorts us to stay in the Word, pray in the Spirit, and look for our Lord's coming. "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them," Jesus said (see John 13:17).

**Love the Simplicity**

I love the simplicity of the Word! May the Lord build your faith as you study it. May He fill you with love as you pray in the Spirit. May He give you hope as you look for His coming.

Amen!