

## **ARE YOU FIT TO FIGHT? Jude 1:1-25**

From the beginning God's faithful remnant has suffered persecution from without (external threat) and combatted false teaching from within (internal threat). Extreme liberal theology is an internal threat to the church because it discredits the authority of the Scriptures and promotes a lifestyle with no moral accountability. Jude writes to the church urging us to contend for the body of Christian doctrine and example of godly living taught by the Lord Jesus and the Apostles.

### **THE WORD OF GOD IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH: TRUTH IS NOT RELATIVE OR SUBJECTIVE (Jude 1:1-4)**

The Scriptures are the only rule for Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:16-21; 2 Timothy 3:16)

“The Faith” is the body of essential doctrines of the Christian belief system.

The Church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15)

Jesus has not changed (Hebrews 13:8)

Believers are kingdom citizens charged with enforcing order and structure and stability in Christian fellowship. Church discipline is necessary.

### **WE SHOULD JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR FRUIT NOT BY THEIR GIFTS (Jude 1:5-13)**

Fruit is the evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in your life – godly character and Christ-likeness (Galatians 5:22)

Gifts can be imitated – lying signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24)

Unbelief, disobedience, and rebellion are still serious sin.

Reviling accusation – slanderous judgement – character assassination

Way of Cain – moral example of Cain – the path of evil (1 John 3:12)

Error of Balaam – prophet for hire-wages of unrighteousness- leading people into sin for money spreading false teaching for money (2 Peter 2:15; Rev 2:14)

Rebellion of Korah – rebelling against church leadership (Numbers 16:1-35)

Selfish People not performing true pastoral care – seeking their own personal profit (John 10:11-16)

Waterless cloud – useless- looks like it is bringing rain but disappoints

Tree without fruit – useless

Waves of the sea – grimy foam that coats a beach – wicked acts

Wandering stars – not following the narrow way of the Lord

**FALSE TEACHERS DO NOT HAVE ANY CREDIBILITY OR AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT (Jude 1:14-19)**

A graduate degree is not a substitute for the Spirit of Truth

The Spirit of Truth teaches truth (1 Corinthians 2:11-16)

False teachers cause division by deceiving people to leave the church and follow them (Acts 20:30)

**HOW TO BE FIT TO FIGHT (Jude 1:20-25)**

Continue to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King

Pray in the Holy Spirit – not speaking in tongues - prayer is the primary work of the people of God

Use discernment to identify who to be gentle with and who to be assertive with when administering godly correction.

Know that the same Lord Jesus who is able to save you is able to keep you – You are saved by grace through faith and you are kept by grace through faith – working the work of God is believing in Jesus (John 6:28-29).

**THE GRACE OF GOD IS NOT A LICENSE TO COMMIT INTENTIONAL SIN WITH NO FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES. THE ONLY TRUE LIBERTY COMES FROM REPENTING FROM DEAD WORKS AND TRUSTING IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. DO NOT BE DECIEVED BY THE FATHER OF LIES – THE WICKED WILL BE CAST INTO HELL.**

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**Bible Study Questions**

Do you know the essential doctrines of the Christian faith? Would you be able to recognize false teaching?

How do you distinguish between people you need to have compassion with and people you need to save with fear?