

Approximately 45 Minutes



Contend for the Faith An Expository **Sermon on Jude Opening Prayer:**

Father God, in the name of Jesus, we come before You with thankful hearts. Thank You for Your Holy Word. Thank You that even a short letter like Jude is full of truth, warning, mercy, and hope. Lord, open our eyes today. Help us understand Your Word clearly. Strengthen the believer, awaken the careless, protect us from deception, and draw the lost to Jesus Christ. Fill us with discernment, courage, humility, and love. May this message glorify Your Son, our Lord, our King... “Yeshua”... and build up Your people. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Historical Setting:

The book of Jude is short, but it is powerful. Jude identifies himself as **“a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James.”**

That likely means he was also a half-brother of Jesus according to the flesh. Yet notice his humility. He does not introduce himself by natural family connection to Jesus. He introduces himself as a servant of Jesus Christ.

This letter was written in a time when false teachers were slipping into the church. Jude originally wanted to write about the joy of our common salvation, but the Holy Spirit led him to write a warning instead.

- **Why?**
- Because error had entered quietly. These were not dangers from far away only. These were dangers creeping in from within.

👉 That is why Jude matters so much today.

We live in a time when many voices claim to speak for God, but not all of them are true.

- Some twist grace into license.
- Some deny the lordship of Christ.
- Some use religion for influence, appetite, and self-glory.

Jude tells the church:

- wake up,
- discern,
- stand firm,
- and contend for the faith.

1. Called, Loved, and Kept:

Let us look into God's Word.....

Jude 1-2(NIV)¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James,

To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Jude writes:

“....To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.” (v.1)

What a beautiful beginning. Before Jude gives any warning, he reminds believers who they are.

👉 They are **called**. Salvation begins with God's gracious initiative.

👉 They are **loved** by God the Father.

👉 They are **kept** for Jesus Christ.

That is a wonderful anchor. In a dangerous world, believers are not abandoned. The true Christian is held by God.

Then Jude says:


“Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.” (v.2)

That is not a small greeting. When falsehood is rising and darkness is active, we need mercy, peace, and love in abundance.

2. Contend for the Faith:

Jude 3-4(NIV) ³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. ⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly

slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude says he was eager to write about our common salvation, but instead he felt compelled to urge believers to  **contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.**

That word **contend** is strong.

It means to

- strive earnestly,
- to struggle for,
- to defend.

The Christian is not called to be argumentative in the flesh, but he is called to stand firmly for the truth.

Notice this carefully: the faith was once for all entrusted to God's people.

👉 That means it is settled truth.

We are not called to reinvent it for each generation or reshape it to fit the culture.

The gospel does not need upgrades, adjustments, or modern improvements.

👉 It needs to be faithfully believed, boldly proclaimed, and lovingly obeyed.

➤ Why must we contend?

Because Jude says certain individuals had slipped in secretly.

- They were ungodly.
- They perverted the grace of God into a license for immorality and denied Jesus Christ as our only Sovereign and Lord.

That is still happening today. Some talk about grace as if grace means God does not care how we live.

👉 But grace is not permission to sin.

- Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness.
- Grace forgives us, changes us, and teaches us to walk in holiness.

Any teaching that uses “grace” to excuse rebellion is not biblical grace.

3. God Judges Unbelief, Rebellion, and Apostasy:

Jude 5-7(NIV) ⁵ Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. ⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. ⁷ In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves

up to sexual immorality and perversion.
They serve as an example of those who
suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Jude now gives three examples of judgment.

- First, Jude reminds his readers that the Lord delivered Israel out of Egypt, but later judged those who did not believe. That is a sobering warning. It is possible to be surrounded by God's truth and still not truly trust Him. It is possible to witness great works of God and still have a heart of unbelief. Miracles alone do not save. Mere exposure to truth does not save. What is needed is genuine faith in the Lord. Unbelief is serious because it rejects the very God who saves.
- Second, Jude speaks of the angels in verse 6:

“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.” (v.6)

Many Bible students understand Jude 6 as connected to **Genesis 6**, before the flood, when mysterious corruption took place on the earth.

In Genesis 6 we read of the **“sons of God”** taking wives from the daughters of men, and the result included the **Nephilim**.

There are different views on this passage, but one very ancient and very serious interpretation is that these **“sons of God”** were fallen angels who crossed a boundary God had set.

That view fits the language Jude uses here:

- angels who **did not keep their proper domain and abandoned their proper dwelling.**
- It also fits 2 Peter 2, which links angelic sin with the days of Noah.

If that is the case, Jude is pointing back to a terrible rebellion in which certain fallen angels violated God's created order in an extraordinary way.

Genesis 6 then describes a world becoming deeply corrupted before the flood judgment.

The "**Nephilim**" are mentioned in Genesis 6:4.

The text presents them as connected to that dark period before the flood. Much debate surrounds exactly how to define them, but many understand them to be **mighty ones or giant-like beings associated with that unnatural corruption.**

Now we should be careful not to go beyond Scripture.

- The Bible does not satisfy every curiosity we might have about Genesis chapter 6.... But Jude clearly uses this event as a warning: even angels that stepped outside God's boundaries did not escape judgment.

👉 That is the point. No created being gets away with rebellion forever.

- Then Jude gives a third example: **Sodom and Gomorrah**. Just as those cities pursued sexual immorality and perversion, they became an example of divine judgment.

So Jude's message is clear: unbelief, rebellion against divine order, and moral corruption all bring judgment if not met with repentance.

4. False Teachers Are Bold, Defiled, and Unafraid:

Jude 8-10(NIV) ⁸ In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. ⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!” ¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

Jude says these “false teachers” rely on dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander celestial beings. They are proud and reckless.

Then he mentions Michael the archangel disputing with the devil over the body of Moses. Even **...Michael did not rail in his own authority but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”** (v.9)

👉 What a lesson for us. Even a mighty archangel like Michael did not act with proud presumption. He showed restraint and left judgment in the Lord’s hands. But false teachers do not have that humility. They speak boldly, carelessly, and arrogantly about things they do not truly understand.

- That is still true today. False teachers often sound the most confident in the areas where they are most blind.

5. The Way of Cain, Balaam, and Korah

Jude 11(NIV) ¹¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam’s error; they have been destroyed in Korah’s rebellion.

Jude gives three Old Testament pictures.

- **The way of Cain** religion without true faith, worship on man's terms, jealousy, and hatred.
- **The error of Balaam** using spiritual things for personal gain, greed, compromise.
- **Korah's rebellion** rejecting God-appointed authority and exalting self.

Those three still describe much false religion today.

- Some invent their own way to God.
- Some make ministry about money.
- Some make leadership about self-exaltation.

👉 Where Christ is not central, corruption spreads.

6. Empty Clouds and Fruitless Trees:

Jude 12-13(NIV) ¹² These people are blemishes at your love feasts, eating

***with you without the slightest qualm—
shepherds who feed only
themselves. They are clouds without
rain, blown along by the wind; autumn
trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice
dead.¹³ They are wild waves of the
sea, foaming up their shame; wandering
stars, for whom blackest darkness has
been reserved forever.***

Jude now describes these false teachers with vivid pictures.

- They are **hidden reefs** at your love feasts. They look harmless until they wreck lives.
- They are **shepherds who feed only themselves.**
- They are **clouds without rain** promising refreshment, delivering nothing.
- They are **autumn trees without fruit** outward form, inward barrenness.

- They are **wild waves of the sea** noisy, unstable, foaming up shame.
- They are **wandering stars** unstable guides leading others into darkness.

What powerful descriptions.

👉 False teachers often look impressive for a while. But eventually their fruit tells the truth.

7. The Lord Is Coming in Judgment:

Jude 14-16(NIV) ¹⁴ Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶ These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they

boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

Jude mentions Enoch's prophecy that the Lord is coming with countless thousands of His holy ones to judge the ungodly.

That is an important reminder: history is not drifting endlessly.

👉 Jesus Christ is coming again... Very soon... God will judge wickedness. Every proud word, every rebellion, every distortion of truth will be answered.

Jude says these "false teachers" are grumblers, faultfinders, boastful, and manipulative. They flatter others for advantage.

👉 That is **not** the spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christ is humble, truthful, holy, and loving.

8. Remember the Apostles' Warnings:

Jude 17-19 (NIV) ¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

- Jude turns to the believers and says: remember what the apostles warned. In the last times there will be scoffers who follow ungodly desires.

So believers should not be shocked when apostasy rises. Scripture told us it would happen.

- Jude says such people divide, follow mere natural instincts, and do not have the Spirit.

That is a serious statement.

👉 Religious language without the Holy Spirit is deadly.

9. How Believers Must Live in Dangerous Times:

Jude 20-23 (NIV) ²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Now Jude gives one of the most practical sections of the letter.

“But you, dear friends...” (v.17)

In other words, while the false are doing one thing, here is how the **true church** must live.

- First, **build yourselves up in your most holy faith**. Stay in the Word. Grow in truth. Strengthen your foundation.
- Second, **pray in the Holy Spirit**. Prayer is not dry ritual. It is dependence on God, yielded to the Spirit.
- Third, **keep yourselves in God’s love**. Remain in the place of fellowship, obedience, and communion with Him.
- Fourth, **wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life**. Live with expectancy. Jesus is coming, very soon!!!

Then Jude tells us how to deal with people caught in spiritual danger.

- Some need compassion because they are doubting.
- Others must be snatched from the fire.
- Others require a very careful rescue, with holy caution.

That is wisdom. Not every person in error is in the same condition.

- Some are confused.
- Some are compromised.
- Some are hardened.

👉 We need discernment, courage, and mercy.

10. God Is Able to Keep You:

Jude 24-25 (NIV) ²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious

presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Jude closes with one of the great doxologies 👉 **dock-SOL-uh-jeez** in all the Bible: NOTE: A doxology is a short expression of praise to God.

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy...” (v.24)

👉 What a great finish to end this letter.....

After all the warnings, all the danger, all the deception, Jude lifts our eyes to God’s keeping power.

- Yes, we must contend.
- Yes, we must discern.

➤ Yes, we must build ourselves up and pray.

👉 But above all, **God is able to keep His people.**

He can present us before His presence without fault and with great joy. Not because we were strong in ourselves, but because **Christ is a mighty Savior.**

And so Jude ends with worship: **glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Invitation to Be Born Again:

Maybe as you have heard Jude, you realize you need more than religion.

- You need Jesus Christ Himself.
- Maybe you have been around church, but you have never truly surrendered to the Lord.

- Maybe you have been deceived, compromised, or spiritually careless.

The good news is that Jesus Christ is still saving sinners.

👉 He is the Son of God who came into this world, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again from the grave. He offers forgiveness, cleansing, eternal life, and real peace with God.

- You do not get saved by fighting harder in your own strength.
- You get saved by coming to Christ in repentance and faith.

If you are ready to be born again, pray something like this prayer.... Pray from your heart:

Let us Pray.....

“Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner.... I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again..... Please forgive me,... cleanse me,... and save me.... I turn from my sins and place my trust in You alone..... Help me walk in truth.... Thank You for Your mercy..... Be my Lord.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

“If” you prayed that sincerely by faith, God hears you.

Stand on His promise, and begin walking with Him in His Word, in prayer, and in fellowship with His people.

Welcome to the family of God....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the book of Jude. Thank You for its warnings, its clarity, its seriousness, and its hope. Help us contend for the faith without becoming harsh. Help us be discerning without becoming proud. Help us stay close to Christ, grounded in truth, filled with the Spirit, and useful in rescuing others. Keep us from deception. Keep us from compromise. Keep us from stumbling. And present us one day before Your glorious presence with great joy. We ask it all in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.



Matthew 28:19-20