

Jude 19 - Building Faith Builds Character

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Jude 20

Prologue - False Teachers: Battleground is Knowing and Context

- ▶ Original Sin taken for granted but defines Satan's War: Knowing and Context
- ▶ Lost's knowing is forced into an anti-Christ context: Eternal Death (Ro 1:18-28)
 - ▶ This knowing results in Degradation and Violence deepening one's enslavement to Satan-World-Flesh-Natural Instincts {Animalistic} (Ps 73:21-22)
- ▶ God's knowing *fits* a pro-Christ context; it is peaceable, pure, reasonable seeking to bring peace to those without peace (Ja 3:13-18)
- ▶ Goal of False Teachers: *make* world's knowing *appear* reasonable
 - ▶ The fool, simple, who do not grow in the Bible and prayer are swayed into error
 - ▶ False Teachers appeal to False Authorities-Majorities and *Natural* Common Senses
- ▶ Mature Christians led by Spirit *rest* in God's *foolishness* choosing Life over Death; therefore, our boasting is in Christ over *Natural* sinful Self (1Co 1:18-31)

Anti-Christ Context:
Incoherent-Unreasonable

1. *Nature* designed body
2. Chance designed world

Pro-Christ Context:
Coherent-Reasonable

1. God designed body
2. God designed world

Prologue - False Teachers (and Sinners): Who is Their Prey?

- ▶ Whom do the False Teachers specifically, and sinners in general, target for their insidious *divide and conquer* strategy appealing to *natural* knowledge?
- ▶ *Two-souled* {δίψυχος, dipsychos} person is their prey, unstable in God's wisdom-context {ψυχικός root of ψυχο-source of self} (Ja 1:5-8, 12-15)
 - ▶ Lost person is unified, *natural*, flesh & soul in agreement: Anti-Christ Context
 - ▶ Saved is two-souled, *new creation*, in Christ but retains Flesh wars against *new nature*: Vacillates between Godly & Ungodly Contexts (1Co 13:12; 2Co 5:17; Ga 2:20; 5:16-17)
 - ▶ Maturing learns to let Spirit Control *Natural* Flesh: Hagiazo Process (Ro 7:7-8:7; He 5:11-14)
 - ▶ Immature tries to Control self and fails; grieves-quenches the Spirit (Ep 4:30; 1Th 5:19)
 - ▶ These are the Christians Satan-False Teachers seek to introduce divisions and open doors for Lost to infiltrate and destroy churches (1Pe 5:6-10; Re 2-3)
 - ▶ Only by submitting to Spirit can Christians, as Christ did, resist Flesh-World-Satan; remembering they can and do still sin (Ja 4:8-10; 1Pe 2:21-25; 1Jo 1:6-10)

Touch of Greek Grammar: Participle of Building

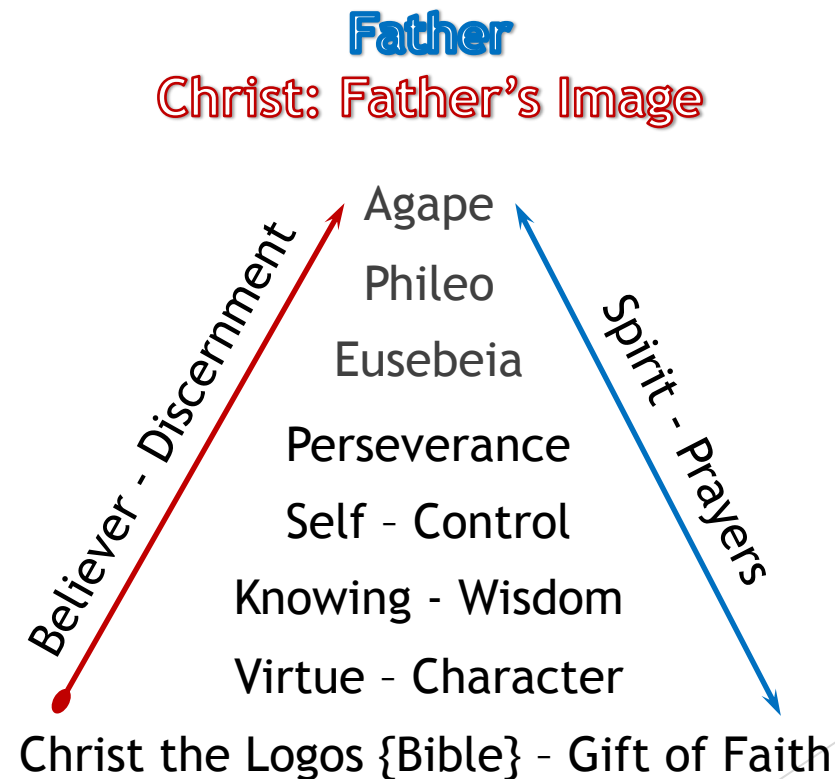
- ▶ Differentiating between Koine Greek present and present participle tenses
 - ▶ Present Tense - Punctiliar, action completed: Example - “Whoever sins...is of the Devil” is a *one-off* action; each sin negates salvation {Unbiblical} (Jn 10:28-30; 1Jo 3:8)
 - ▶ Participle - Ongoing action with no end unless stated: Example - “Whoever sins...is of the Devil” means continual sinning; source of one’s action is from sin; i.e., *Lost Nature*, not *New Nature*; however, Christians do sin but keep their salvation (1Jo 1:8)
- ▶ Building in our text is Greek Participle: Ongoing action or process
 - ▶ You are **always** building your faith: Saved and Lost
 - ▶ Jude tells Christians to build their *holy* faith, *New Nature*; i.e., moving from unstable *Two-souled* {δίψυχος, dipsychos} {Spirit controls the Flesh {ψυχος, psychos} rather than ourselves (Ro 7:7-8:7; He 5:11-14; Ja 1:5-8)

Building: Building What?

- ▶ How does one build the *New Nature*? Another aspect of the Hagiazio Process
 - ▶ God's part in the Hagiazio Process: Not under our Control (Ro 5:3-5; Ja 1:2-4)
 - ▶ Our part in the Hagiazio Process: Frequently ignored (2Pe 1:5-11)
- ▶ Jude summarizing Peter's process of building one's faith which requires your participation as each decision turns you into who you are; you then give account to Jesus: Saved and Lost (2Co 5:10; Re 20:11-15)
 - ▶ Peter begins with Faith, but faith does not come from within: Gift of God (Ep 2:8-10)
 - ▶ Paul alludes to this with his *building* parable (1Co 3:10-15)
 - ▶ Christ's salvation work is foundation of faith which we continually build on for which we will give an account; hence, James writes, pray for wisdom (Ja 1:5-8)

Believer's Maturation: Growing in Grace - Discernment

- ▶ From Christ the foundation, author of Faith, we are *commanded* to build our maturation: Peter
- ▶ We continue building with each each decision: Jude
- ▶ Progression grows us in grace: eusebeia + knowing = Wisdom (2Pe 3:18)
- ▶ Christ: image of the Father (Col 1:15-23)
- ▶ All made in His image(ish) (Ge 1:27)
- ▶ Saved continue growing in Christ's image - Discernment (1Co 13:9-12; Ga 2:20; Ep 4:15-15; He 5:11-14)

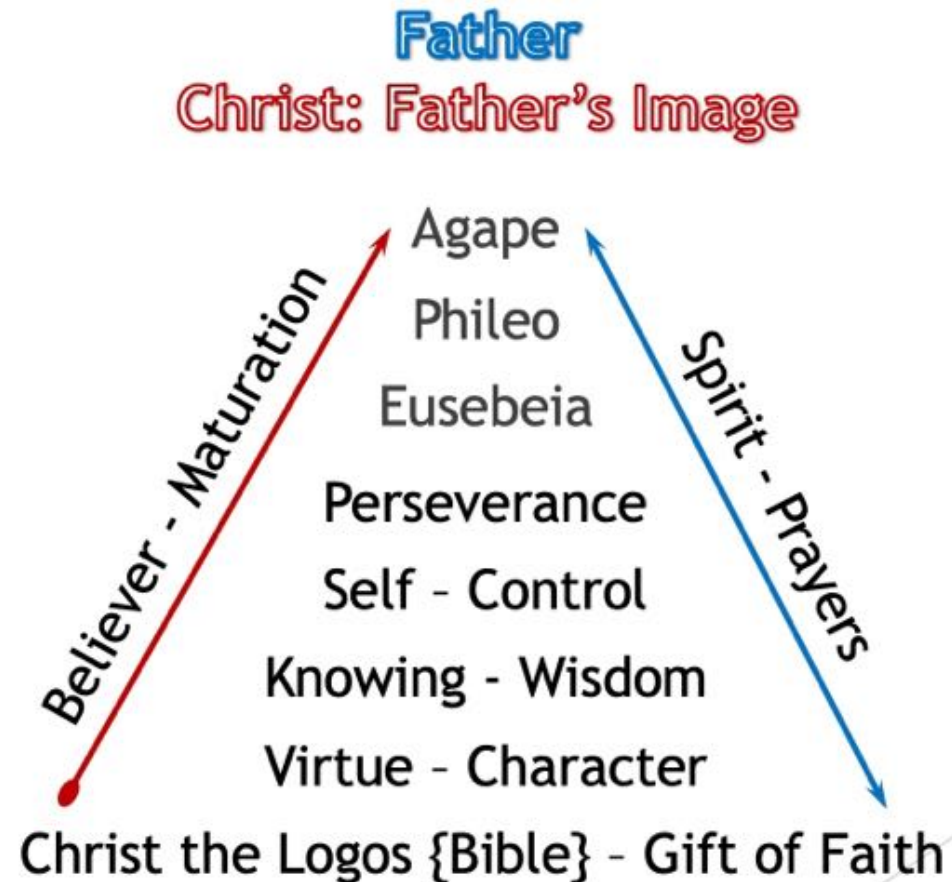


Faith to Virtue: What is Virtue?

- ▶ Today *virtue* carries a moralistic connotation not consistent with its usage in this passage; harkens back to works-based Ma'at or Balance {Good-Evil}
 - ▶ For Plato non-empirical perfection patterns for earthly elements existed, even people; this required the dictatot, philosopher-king {Socialism} {Antichrist}
 - ▶ Aristotle defined virtue as a person's pattern of development based on knowledge and decisions to achieve the *desired* moral good; undefined source {Antichrist}
- ▶ New Nature does not build on Flesh's psychos: *Old Man* crucified with Christ (Ro 6:6-11)
 - ▶ *New Nature* not a cloak worn over *Old Man*; they are at war, the Flesh Controlled only by the Spirit: Christ our example (Ro 8:5-14; 1Co 10:11-14; Ph 2:5-8; 1Pe 2:18-25)
 - ▶ *New Nature* builds on Christ; i.e., one must learn new thought-behavior patterns foreign to our Flesh; hence, Hagiazo Process teaches us through experience (Ga 2:20)

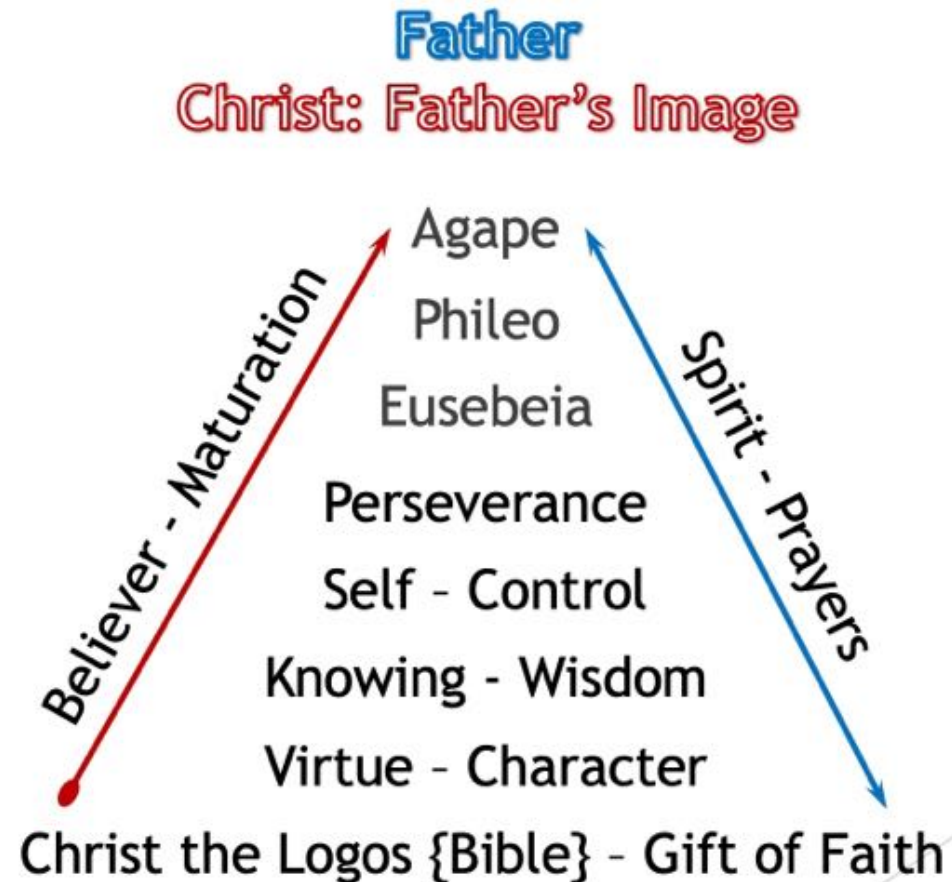
Every Choice: Development of You 101

- ▶ Christ, Logos, uses the Word, Bible, energized by Spirit giving us growth template (1Co 2:14; 2Ti 3:16-17; He 1:1-2)
- ▶ Each choice builds from our current character strengthening either *New or Old Man* (2Pe 2:19-22)
- ▶ We participate by our knowing the Bible coupled with experience to gain wisdom {Facts + Eusebeia}
- ▶ Develops *fruit of Spirit*: Self-Control to resist sin (Ga 5:22-23; He 5:11-14)
- ▶ Perseverance {Hypomene}, remain behind; we patiently await Christ's coming: Doubt \cong Godly Wisdom (Mk 9:23-24; Ep 6:10-13)



Every Choice: Development of You 201

- ▶ Godliness {Eusebeia} not luck but purposeful maturing from sin's worldview to God's view of World (Ro 1:18-28)
- ▶ Jude specifically uses Phileo and Agape referring to different foci
- ▶ Phileo: Love of Christians; love those you do see (1Jo 2:6)
- ▶ Agape: Love God-Christ whom you cannot see: Keep His Commands (1Jo 4:21; 5:1-3)
- ▶ If you do not Phileo, you cannot Agape (1Jo 2:9-11; 4:20-21)



Growing in Grace: Resisting False Teachers

- ▶ Maturing Christians grow in maturing grace, via discernment, resisting False Teachers by seeing their incoherent deceptions: Christ, Bible, Spirit
- ▶ Christ gave Church {hence, local churches} elders for you to recognize, reject False Teachers: Continues Proverbs Wisdom pleas (Pr 1:23; 2:1-15; 3:5-8, 11-12; Ep 4:11-16)
 - ▶ Apostles {Twelve including Paul; sans Judas}
 - ▶ Prophets {Speakers of Truth}
 - ▶ Evangelists {Sent out by, and accountable to, local churches}
 - ▶ Pastor - Teachers {Elders within local churches}
- ▶ False Teachers gain little foothold in churches who have biblically-based elders with congregations who listen and grow in Christ (Ac 17:10-13)
 - ▶ False Teachers target churches chasing changing doctrines and philosophies (Ep 4:14)

False Teachers: Casting Doubt on Christ's Veracity

- ▶ False Teachers' favorite target for doubt: Christ's return; Paul knew this also (1Th 4:13-18; 2Pe 3:3-4)
 - ▶ Christ never gave a time frame for His return; He said watch and **wait** (Mt 24:36-51)
 - ▶ False Teachers cast doubt in the minds of immature framing all God's promises as empty and His Bible as myths; but it is they who teach myths (2Ti 3:1-5; 4:3-4)
 - ▶ They claim *private interpretations* challenging Bible's claim there are no private, secret, interpretations as all are taught by God's Spirit (1Co 2:14; 2Pe 1:20-21)
 - ▶ They allegorize the Bible *encouraging* immature to follow their fleshly desires and goals: Health, Happiness, Wealth, but Slavery (2Pe 2:18-22)
- ▶ Goal of God's Hagiazō Process is not gratification but humility, learning one will never Control one's Flesh; requires the Spirit based on Christ's Foundation (Mt 5:2-12; Ro 7:18-24)

Jude Continues: Praying Always

- ▶ Jude writes; this requires Prayer
 - ▶ Praying: Deponent participle: your ongoing comms with God you do for you; No prayer = No growth
 - ▶ Spirit intercession vital due to our absolute lack of spiritual senses; immature believe they know spirits (Ro 8:26-27; 1Co 3:1-3)
- ▶ False Teachers substitute many myths for Christ's Gospel for you to *feel better* in ignorance (1Jo 1:17)
 - ▶ They encourage covetousness: Idolatry (Ge 3:1-5; Col 3:5)
 - ▶ Reject them; Grow in Christ! (Col 3:9-11)

