

“At Home In God’s Love!”
Jude 20-21

Introduction:

1. Please Head Back With Me To The Book Of Jude:
 - Where, For Most Of His Letter:
 - Jude Has Been Describing False Teachers & False Members:
 - Within The Church!
 - And He Has Told Us What They Are Like:
 - In Great Detail!
 - Perhaps The Christians To Whom He Was Writing:
 - Started To Feel Discouraged & Even Hopeless!
 - Like - Why Even Put Up A Fight?
 - **IE:** When So Much Is Against You, Doesn’t It Seem So Much Easier To Just Give Up & To Just Give In!
 - Why Should We:
 - “Earnestly Contend For The Faith”:
 - If There Are So Many Things Against Us?
 - And It Won’t Get Any Better:
 - But Instead Will Keep Getting Worse?
2. Jude Anticipates This Concern:
 - In The Last Few Verses Of His Letter!
 - And Through These Inspired Words He Tells Them:
 - You Don’t Need To Be Discouraged!
 - You Don’t Need To Feel Hopeless!
 - Instead - He Tells Them & Us:
 - That In The Middle Of These Difficult Times:
 - ***“Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God!”*** (21)
 - It Is The “Love Of God”:
 - That Will Get You Through All Of These Things:
 - That Will Come Against You!
3. Jude Writes In Verses 20-21:
 - “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, / Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life!”
 - The Main Focus Of These Two Verses Is On:
 - The ***“Love Of God!”***
 - And That Needs To Be The Main Focus Of Our Lives & Our Hearts As Well:
 - As We Begin To Experience More & More Of What Will Happen In The Last Days – The “Last Time!”
 - It Is The “Love Of God” That Will See You Through, Christian!
 - It Is A Love That Is Thorough!
 - A Love The Apostle Paul Prayed That We Would Know! That We: “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; / And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God!”
 - The Love Of God Is Complete & Thorough For Those Who Belong To Him!
 - And It Is A Love That Is Timeless!
 - Romans 8:35, 38-39 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? / For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”
 - The Love Of God is Timeless & Noone / Nothing Can Separate A Child Of God From His Love!
 - So – No Matter What You Face As A Christian!
 - No Matter What We Face As A Church!
 - It Is The Love Of God That Will See Us Through!
 - And That Is Why Jude Tells Us To:
 - ***“Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God!”***

4. But What Does Jude Mean When He Says:
 - **“Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God?”**
 - If God’s Love Is So Thorough & So Timeless:
 - How Can We “Keep Ourselves” In His Love?
 - Isn’t The Lord The One:
 - Who Keeps Us With His Love?
 - Yes - That Is True!
 - God Is The One Who Keeps Us With His Love!
 - But How Many Times Do We Turn Our Backs On His Love Instead!
 - Much Like The Prodigal Son In Luke 15:
 - Where He Lived His Whole Life:
 - Under The Loving Care Of His Father & In His Father’s House! He Was In Need Of
 Nothing! His Father’s Love For Him Was Thorough & Timeless!
 - But What Did The Prodigal Son Do?
 - He “Left” His Father’s Love!
 - He Forsook & Turned His Back On & Left His Father’s Love!
 - Instead - That Prodigal Son - Should Have:
 - “Kept Himself In His Father’s Thorough & Timeless Love!”
 - He Should Have Stayed At Home!
 - He Should Have Never Left!
 - And That Is What Jude Has In Mind:
 - When He Tells Us To:
 - “Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God!”
 - Even When You Face:
 - Great Distress & Great Discouragement:
 - There Is No Need For You To Leave The Great Love That God Has For You!
 - Just Stay At Home:
 - In Your Father’s Love!
 - And In The Rest Of Verses 20-21, Jude Tells Us What It Will Take For Us To:
 - “Keep Ourselves In The Love Of God!”

* First, It Will Take:

1. Construction – On Our Faith!

- Verse 20 - “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith!”
 - This Is The First Way For Us:
 - To “Keep Ourselves In The Love Of God!”
 - Keep Building!
 - On Your Faith!
 - **IE:** A Couple Of Years Ago, We Bought The House That Was Built By My Wife’s Grandparents - Really
 By Their Sons! Since Then, We Have Been Working On The House - Making Changes To Make It Our
 Own! When You Build Something Yourself – Then You Are Committed To It! The More Time & Effort
 & Money You Invest, The More You Want To Keep Things Nice! Unlike Many Renters - The Home They
 Live In Does Not Belong To Them, So They Don’t Have The Same Care As Does The Owner!
 - In Order To Keep Your Focus On The Love Of God, Keep Building On Your Faith!
 - Be An Owner Of Your Faith, Not A Renter!
 - It Must Be Personal!
 - In Order Keep Building On Your Faith:
 - You Must First Have Faith!
 - A True Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Savior From Sin!
 - You Will Never Know The Love Of God:
 - If You Are Not A Believer:
 - In The Greatest Act Of Love Ever Accomplished!
 - That Jesus Christ Died For Your Sins!
 - You Must Be One Of The “Beloved”:
 - To Whom Jude Is Writing!
 - Are You?
 - It Must Be Progressive!

- Once You Are A Christian:
 - There Needs To Be A Continual Growth In The Things Of God!
- A Growth In Knowledge:
 - And A Growth In Trust!
- In Fact, The More You Know About The Lord:
 - The More You Can Trust Him:
 - And The More You Will Grow In Your Faith!
- Are You Growing In Your Christian Life & Walk?
 - 2 Peter 3:18 - "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!"
- It Must Be Precious!
 - Jude Is The Only One Who Describes The Christian Faith:
 - As "Your Most Holy Faith!"
 - You Must See Your Faith As Something Very Sacred & Very Special & Very Scarce!
 - Your Faith:
 - Is Something Valuable & Worth Hanging On To!
 - And It Is Something Worth Building Upon & Maintaining!
 - Because It Was Provided To Us:
 - "With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!" (1 Peter 1:19)
- Is There This Kind Of Construction:
 - Taking Place In Your Christian Life?
 - Are You "Building Up Yourselves On Your Most Holy Faith?"
 - Are You Growing?
 - Are You Digging Into The Word Of God?
 - Are You Listening To God's Word And Letting Him Change You From The Inside Out?
 - This Is How You Will Grow!
 - 1 Peter 2:2 - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby!"
 - The More You Build:
 - The More You Will Know Of The Love Of God!
 - And You Will Never Want To Leave The Home Of Your Father's Love!
 - "Keep Yourself In The Love Of God!"
 - By "Building Up Yourselves On Your Most Holy Faith!"

* Second, It Will Take:

2. Communication – Through Our Prayer!

- Verse 20 - "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost!"
 - This Is The Second Way For Us:
 - To "Keep Ourselves In The Love Of God!"
 - Keep Praying!
 - In The Holy Ghost! The Holy Spirit!
 - **IE:** One Of The Most Important Things In Any Relationship Is: Communication! Talking With Each Other! Whether You Are A Husband Or A Wife, Or A Parent Or A Child – Relationships Will Break Down When Communication Breaks Down! And That Communication Needs To Be Open, Honest And Loving! But The More You Spend Time With The One You Love & The More You Talk With The One You Love, The More You Will Get To Know Each Other! The Same Is True In Your Relationship With God!
 - And In Order To Keep Your Focus On The Love Of God, Keep Praying In The Holy Spirit!
 - Our Communication With The Lord Must Be:
- Persistent Prayer!
 - "Praying!"
 - Used In The Present Tense:
 - Which Means That We Are To Keep On Praying!
 - Reminds Us Of What Paul Wrote In:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "Pray Without Ceasing!"
 - We Are To Keep The Communication Going:
 - In Our Relationship With The Lord!

- Not Only Is Prayer A Great Privilege For A Christian – It Is Also A Great Necessity!
- In Fact:
 - It Is Dangerous For A Christian Not To Pray!
- But Our Communication With The Lord Should Also Be:
 - Passionate Prayer!
 - Our Hearts Must Be Engaged With Our Mouths!
 - Gill - “With Heart, Soul, And Spirit Engaged In It; It Is Put Up With A True Heart, And A Right Spirit, And Without Hypocrisy; In A Spiritual Way, And With Fervency!”
 - James 5:16 Tells Us:
 - “The Effectual Fervent Prayer Of A Righteous Man Availeth Much!”
 - Ephesians 6:18 Tells Us To Be:
 - “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints!”
 - Prayer Is Really One Of The Weapons Of Our Spiritual Warfare!
 - And We Will Never Be Able To:
 - “Earnestly Contend For The Faith!”
 - If We Are Not Praying Earnestly & Fervently & Passionately To The Lord!
 - But Our Communication With The Lord Must Also Be:
 - Powerful Prayer!
 - “Praying In The Holy Ghost!”
 - In The Holy Spirit!
 - One Of The Great Promises Given To Us By The Lord:
 - Is That When We Pray:
 - From Our Hearts!
 - It Is An Evidence That The Holy Spirit Himself:
 - Is Working In & Through Our Prayers!
 - Romans 8:26 - “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered!”
 - Our Prayers Will Never Be Persistent & Will Never Be Passionate Unless We Are Trusting That The Holy Spirit Will Make Them Powerful!
 - It Is “The [Holy] Spirit [Who] Takes Our Feeble Prayers And Perfects And Presents Them To God The Father!” (Kistemaker)
 - What A Wonderful Truth!
- Is There This Kind Of Communication:
 - Taking Place In Your Christian Life?
 - Are You “Praying In The Holy Ghost?”
 - Are You Praying At All?
 - Persistently!
 - Passionately!
 - And Powerfully – Looking To & Trust In The Holy Spirit Of God To Be “Prompting, Purifying, And Directing [Your] Prayer In Harmony With The Will Of God!” (Hiebert)
 - The More You Pray In This Way:
 - The More You Will Know Of The Love Of God!
 - And You Will Never Want To Leave The Home Of Your Father’s Love!
 - “Keep Yourself In The Love Of God!”
 - By “Praying In The Holy Ghost!”

* Third, It Will Take:

3. **Contemplation – Of Our Hope!**

- Verse 21 - “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life!”
- This Is Third Way For Us:
 - To “Keep Ourselves In The Love Of God!”
- Keep Looking!
 - For The Coming Of The Lord!
- **IE:** Another Important Thing In Any Home & Relationship Is Contemplation! That Is – Thinking About The One You Love & The One Who Loves You! You Are Not Always Able To Be With The One You Love – But The One You Love Can Always Be With You In Your Mind / In Your Thoughts! And The More You Think About Them When You Are Apart, The More You Will Anticipate The Time When You

- Can Be Together With Them Once Again! The Same Is True In Your Relationship With The Lord Jesus Christ!
- Keep Thinking About Him!
 - Keep Contemplating His Return!
 - Keep “Looking For The Mercy Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Unto Eternal Life!”
 - Because **HE** Is Our Hope! (1 Timothy 1:1)
- Keep Looking!
- To “Look” Here Means:
 - To Have “An Attitude Of Eager Expectancy, A Readiness To Welcome That Which Is Awaited!” (Hiebert)
 - This Is Exactly What It Should Be Like:
 - For Those Who Belong To The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - We Should Be “Looking” For Jesus To Return, And Ready To Welcome Him Even As He Will Welcome Us!
 - We Are In All Of His Thoughts!
 - Should He Not Be In All Of Ours?
 - Reminds Us Of:
 - Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!”
 - Keep Looking For Jesus!
 - Because He Is Your Hope!
 - Even When It Seems Like Everything Is Going Wrong – Even Within The Church!
 - Because - As Jesus Told Us In:
 - Luke 21:28 - “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!”
- Keep Longing!
- We Are To Be:
 - “Looking For [His] Mercy!”
 - This Is An Unusual Description:
 - Of The Coming Return Of The Lord:
 - For His People!
 - But It Is A Description Full Of Comfort!
 - Because It Will Be An Act Of Mercy:
 - When Jesus Comes To Take Us To Our Eternal Home With Him!
 - And To Deliver Us From All Those Who Would Seek To Do Us Harm!
 - **IE:** Presidential Candidates - Heard One Say - “The Best Days For America Are Ahead!” I Don’t Believe That Is True! Just Look Around! But For Christians It Is True – Your Best Days **Are** Ahead!
 - Because: The Merciful Return Of The Lord Jesus:
 - Is Our Great Hope In This World!
 - And The More We See Things Getting Worse & Worse:
 - The More We Will Long For His Return!
 - This Is Why The Apostle John Stated In:
 - Revelation 22:20 - “Even So, Come, Lord Jesus!”
 - Keep Longing For Jesus! And:
- Keep Loving!
- The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - The More You Think About Him, The More You Will Love Him Who First Loved You!
 - In 2 Timothy 4:8 - Paul Tells Timothy:
 - “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing!”
 - If You Love The Lord Jesus:
 - You Will “Love His Appearing” As Well!
- Is There This Kind Of Contemplation:
- Taking Place In Your Christian Life?
 - Are You “Looking For The Mercy Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Unto Eternal Life?”
 - Are You Looking For:
 - And Longing For:

- And Loving The Coming Return Of Your Savior?
- “Keep Yourself In The Love Of God!”
 - By “Looking” For Jesus!
 - And By “Looking To” Jesus!

Conclusion:

1. Even Though Things May Become:
 - Very Distressing & Very Discouraging:
 - Remember To:
 - “Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God!”
 - Because If You Belong To The Lord:
 - Then You Are At Home:
 - In His Love!
 - So Stay There!
 - Stay At Home In His Love!
 - And Keep Your Focus On His Great Love For You!
 - How? By:
 - “Building!” & “Praying!” & “Looking!”
 - “Building Up Yourselves On Your Most Holy Faith!”
 - “Praying In The Holy Ghost!”
 - And - “Looking For The Mercy Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Unto Eternal Life!”

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