

# Jude Lesson 3

## *Exhortation to Dear Friends*

### *Jude 1:3, 20-22*

In this lesson we glean from Jude's exhortation not only the challenge to earnestly contend for the faith, but we include his other exhortations to these dear friends that are also contained in this short letter. They are significant encouragements that deserve our careful consideration.

3. **Dear friends**, although I was very eager to write to you about **the salvation** we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for **the faith** that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

20. **But you, dear friends**, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray 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. snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

### **Dear friends**

- 1) *Beloved Saints* – called, loved, kept, blessed, beloved friends, and saints.
- 2) Contend for “the faith” – guard it, preserve it, defend it, fight for it. (How?)
- 3) *Shared salvation* – The Salvation, The Faith, The Way, The Gospel, The Truth.
- 4) *Once for all* entrusted to you – already defined gospel, entrusted to your care.
  
- 5) *Build yourselves up in the faith*. (How?) -- Mt 7:21-27
- 6) *Pray in the Holy Spirit*. (How?) -- Eph. 6:18
- 7) *Keep yourselves in the love of God*. (How?) -- John 15:9-10
- 8) *Be merciful to those who struggle with doubts*. (How?) -- 1 Thess. 5:11,14
- 9) *Rescue & snatch others from the fire of hell*. (How?) -- 1 Peter 3:15
- 10) *Hate getting your own clothes stained by fleshly sins*. (How?) -- 1 Peter 1:15-16

### **Summary of Questions for Discussion**

1. What is the *mutual salvation* we share? Synonyms for the Gospel
2. What is the *Gospel* message or the Faith once for all entrusted to us?
3. Have you ever read/studied the *Apostles Creed* and *Nicene Creeds*?
4. What are the essentials, non-negotiables, absolutes?
5. Can you defend the deity of Jesus Christ without hesitation?
6. What does “*once for all*” mean?
  
7. How can we “*earnestly contend*” for the faith? (When? Where? How? Why?)
8. How can we “*build ourselves up in faith*”?
9. How can we “*pray in the Holy Spirit*”? What does that mean?
10. How can we “*keep ourselves in the love of God*”?
11. How can we “*be merciful to those who struggle with doubt*”?
12. How can we “*snatch sinners from hell's fires*”?
13. How can we “*keep our lives pure from sin*”?

**Build yourselves up in the faith. (How?)****-- Mt 7:21-27**

21. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23. Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

24. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." 28. When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29. because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**Matthew 28:19-20**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20. and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

**Pray in the Holy Spirit. (How?)****-- Eph. 6:18/ Romans 8:26-27**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Romans 8:26-27**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

**Keep yourselves in the love of God. (How?)****-- John 15:9-10/ Ps 91:1**

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**Psalm 91:1**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**Be merciful to those who struggle with doubts. (How?)****-- 1 Thess. 5:11,14**

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ... And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

**Rescue & snatch others from the fire of hell. (How?)****-- 1 Peter 3:15**

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

**Hate getting your own clothes stained by fleshly sins. (How?)****-- 1 Peter 1:15-16**

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16. for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

**-- Hebrews 12:14**

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: