

Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:14 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study

In Jude 17-25, Jude, the half-brother -- who saw himself more as a "[bond servant](#)" -- of Jesus Christ, picks up on his challenge for believers to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"! He is quick to remind them (and us!) of "the words spoken beforehand by the apostles" concerning the coming of "mockers" -- those "devoid of the Spirit -- who not only would "deny Christ," but would "follow their own ungodly lusts," and cause divisions and turmoil in the "church" of Jesus Christ!

To counter this, true believers and followers of Jesus Christ, he said, needed to "build themselves up in their most holy faith!" To enable them to "contend for the faith" -- and to "persevere"! Peter likened them to "newborn babies" who needed the "pure milk of the word that they might grow thereby!" (I Pet. 2:2). Paul "commended" believers (in Acts 20:32) to the "word of His grace," which he said was able to build them up." Jesus prayed that His disciples would be "sanctified" through the "Word." Psalm 119 and many other passages from both the Old and New Testaments make it clear that it's the Word of God, together with the work of the Holy Spirit, that is the true source of spiritual life and growth! And to be able to "contend for the faith" -- and to "persevere"!

Jude also urges believers to "pray in the Holy Spirit" -- or, as Wiersbe interprets it, "according to the leading of the Spirit"! Paul, in Romans 8:26-28, notes: "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God!" Wiersbe notes that "prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven--it is getting God's will done on earth!" And so, we need to pray!

But Jude isn't finished with his instructions! We, as believers, he writes, are to "keep ourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life." MacArthur see this as a reminder for us to remain in the place of obedience, where God's love is poured out on His children, as opposed to being disobedient and incurring His chastening! (Sounds like "persevering"!)

Jude next urges believers to show "mercy" to others, just as mercy has been extended to us through Jesus Christ our Lord! Mercy to those who are doubting, presumably those having been influenced by false teachers, as well as to those who might possibly be "snatched out of the fire!"

All of the instructions from Jude in this text, and particularly the one that tells us to "keep ourselves in the love of God," appear to represent the believer's responsibility to "persevere in the faith"! And yet Jude ends his letter--just as he begins it--with words clearly noting God's sovereign role in the "preservation of the saints"! In Jude 1, Jude refers to believers as "called, loved, and kept for Jesus Christ"! In Jude 24-25, he closes with the reassuring words: "Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever! Amen."

Now if that isn't a final instruction from Jude, it certainly is reason and motivation to want to praise and glorify our Lord!

Hey Jude! Thanks!

Have a great week, men!

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