

Slide 1



Fighting for the Faith

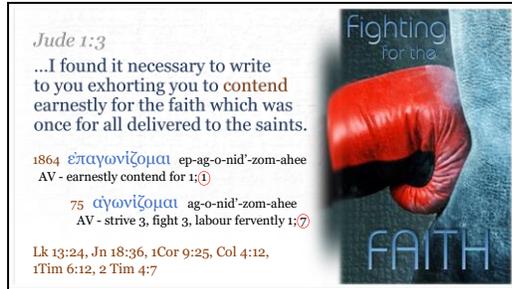
Jude 1:1-3

10 Come Christians, Join to Sing

613 Fight the Good Fight

Note to Piano Player: Use alternate familiar tune from song 82

Slide 2



Jude had an intention... to write to his intended audience... about “our common salvation”

Yet... he found it... more imperative... to exhort them... ‘to contend earnestly’... for the faith

CLICK - This word contend... is a compound... made up of the preposition... Epi – meaning on or upon... and Ago – nidzo – mahee

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought <75> the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

CLICK – Note that it is only... found once in scripture... its root... of sorts...

Fight... says Jude... earnestly for the Faith... which was... delivered to the saints

CLICK - Ago – nidzo – mahee... is itself found... only 7 times... it means to strive... or fight...

Who was this Jude? ...He introduces himself... in verse 1:

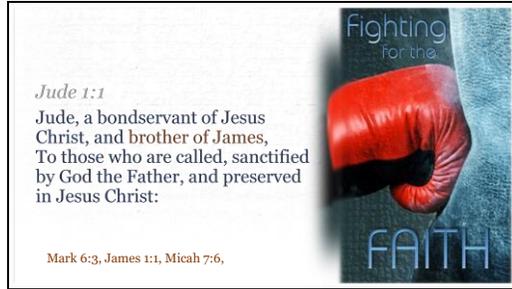
Lexicon – literally and figuratively... to engage in a contest... with weapons

CLICK – Two of the uses... are by Jesus... and the remaining 5... by Paul... such as:

1Timothy 6:12

Fight <75> the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

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Curiously... he says he is... the brother of James...

More than likely... the James who... authored the Epistle... by that name...

James... who was later martyred... and the older step-brother... of Jesus... son of Joseph

Called... 2822 κλητός klay-tos... AV-called 11; 11... 1) called, invited (to a banquet)

Jude would then... also be an older... step-brother of Jesus... i.e. not the son... of Mary

Sanctified... 37 ἀγιάζω hag-ee-ad'-zo... AV-sanctify 26, hallow 2, be holy 1; 29... To make holy, consecrate, sanctify

Note that... he calls himself... a bondservant... of Jesus... literally the Christ... i.e. the Messiah... James likewise calls himself... a servant of Christ

Preserved... 5083 τηρέω tay-reh'-o... AV-keep 57, reserve 8, observe 4, watch 2, preserve 2, keeper 1, hold fast 1; 75... 1) to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard

What a conversion... this must have been... two of his own brothers... older ones at that... Mic 7:6

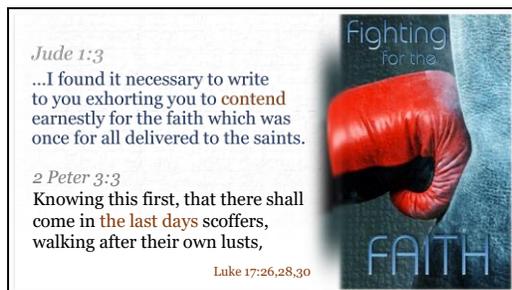
Called by God... Sanctified by God... Preserved... held fast by Jesus

Look at these three adjectives... "to those who are..."

If that is you... then this letter... is to you... for you

Back to verse 3:

Slide 4



So... Jude says to you...

CLICK – look at Peter’s words... if you’ve been... paying attention... to the rapid decline... of the moral structure... of society

Jesus words... might speak to you

Luke 17:26

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot... 30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

So Jude's words... are for you... and me... as never before

I found it necessary... to exhort you... Contend... Fight... for the FAITH

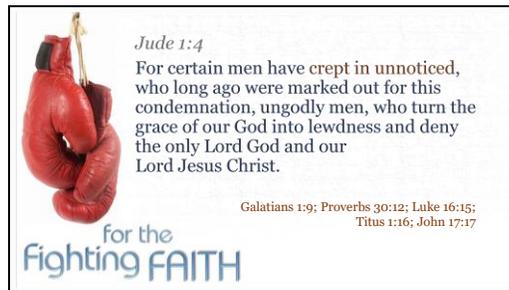
Not that was delivered... by your pastor... your parents... your church tradition....

But rather... that was... once for all... delivered to the saints... the 40 ἅγιος hag'-ee-os... (i.e. those sanctified)... the Prophets and Apostles

This is Jude's way... of saying believers... you and I... are to fight... for the truth... as is delivered... in the scripture

What prompted this... exhortation? ...vs 4

Slide 5



Certain men... what kind of men?

Ungodly men... who turn the grace... of our God... into lewdness... and deny Jesus as Lord

Verse 8 says... Likewise also these dreamers... defile the flesh... reject authority... and speak evil of dignitaries.

How did this happen?

They... crept in unnoticed... How could this happen?

It's sort of like... the "proof is in the pudding"... more accurately... the CAUSE is in the CURE... i.e. the CURE... identifies the CAUSE

This unawareness... resulted from... a failure to contend... for the faith...

They had... hung up their gloves... stopped visiting the word... exercising their faith... in the truth

In other words... the believes were deceived... because they were... personally unfamiliar... with the truth... the character of God... vs ungodly character

This is... in many ways... the bane of... Christian history

When the people... either have no access to... or worse yet... leave off... personal familiarity... with the teachings of... the scripture

They become... prime candidates... for teachers of deception... ungodly men... who turn the grace of our God... into lewdness... and thereby deny Christ

Crept in unnoticed... We can't fight against... in fact we... will see no reason... to fight against... that which we fail to recognize... as falsehood

In fact the more... convoluted not only... our individual unfamiliarity... but our collective... convolution...

The more... opinions prevail... the greater the divide... the easier the job... of the false teachers

How were then... unnoticed me denying... the Faith... and Christ? ...by their behavior

Be on guard... says Jude... yet more... Fight for the Faith...

Scripture has always been... the safeguard... the standard... the anchor

To defend it... or even be aware... that it needs defending... we must first... know it!

To defend it... means likewise... to live it... to follow it... and be like... Jesus

Just note... the state of Christianity today... in light of the... scriptural Faith... and the state of disputes... with in our own church

Are not sides drawn... opinions defended... based on an... ignorance of true... scriptural Faith

Get in the word... take the gloves... down off the peg... get in the ring... be a contender

Over the next... several verses... i.e. 5-19... Jude sets out to... define the purpose and practices... of these false teachers

We pick it up in verse 17

"As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." (Gal 1:9 AV)

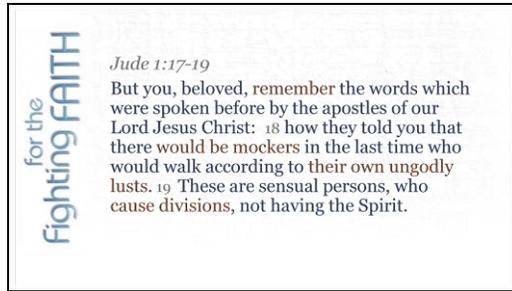
Prov 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth

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Remember – Jude say... what those... inspired by the spirit... have warned you about

Mockers – would come... and they have come... so beware

Identify – Who are they? ...they walk according to... their ungodly lusts... sensual...

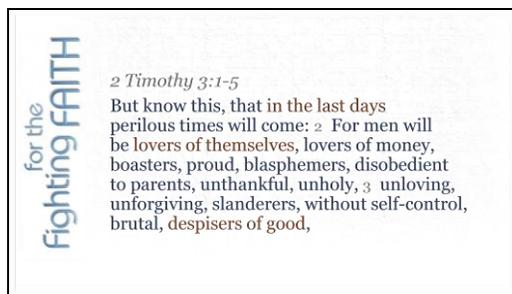
Who's tactics are these? ...the great deceiver ...sower of discord in heaven ...Lucifer

What is the result? ...causing divisions ...sowing discord

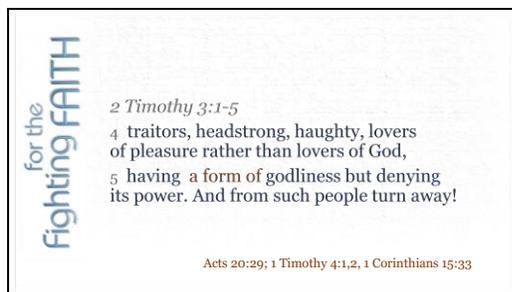
Why do they do this?because they don't... have the Spirit

Paul counsels Timothy similarly:

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Slide 8



Identify – by the description in... verses 1-4... this doesn't really sound... like a Christian... does it?

Yet... verse 5... says they have... a form of godliness... this means they... have a profession... they are in the church

Deception - But then again... how noticeable... discernable... their "form" is ... depends on...

In Christ's day... the Jews had a "form" ...a religiosity ...an appearance of sanctity ...when compared with... Pagan Rome around them... yet

How worldly... culturally inodiated... and thus uniformed... the Church of today... has become

Compared with Christ... the religious leaders... were the epitome of verses 2-4... and even Jesus' disciples... had been deceived

Again Scripture... the teachings... and practices... of those moved by the Spirit... are our safeguard... not culture... not tradition... or personal opinion

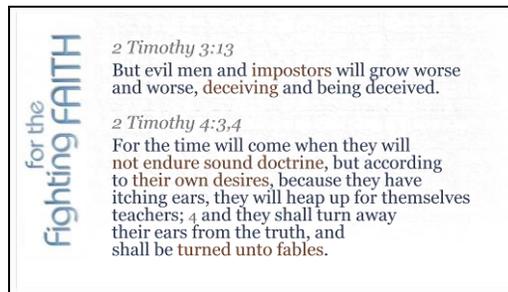
From such people... turn away!... Warns Paul... Why?

Well as he says in... 1Cor 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Wolves in Lamb's Clothing - But to know that... we should run... from a wolf... we must first... recognize it as a wolf... and not a harmless... puppy dog.

Paul continues:

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Imposters – pretending to be... something they are not... these are sometimes... even self deluded...

Yet the issue... as Paul and Jude... warn is that... people are deceived... gullible perhaps...

But look what... he says next:

CLICK – the problem is... they have no desire... to “endure sound doctrine”

What is doctrine? ...it simply means teaching ...the teachings of Christ

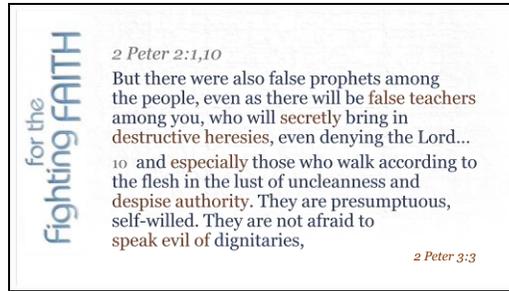
They have itching ears... they don't want... to hear the... unadulterated truth... so they heap up... teachers of fables

Why do they not... like the word?
...because as Paul says... in:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Peter offers... more identifying marks:

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Secretly... there is that... undiscerned... unaware... synonym again

Destructive heresies... isn't this a prophetic... history of the church past?

Is it the church of today?

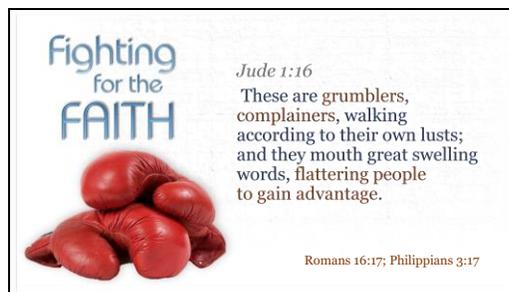
Are we being eaten out... from the inside?

By those who... despise authority... not manly... but scriptural... and

Who shamelessly... speak evil... of anyone who... they disagree with... especially those who... make scripture their guide

Back to Jude... this time verse 16:

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Wow... Ok... so we have enough... identifying markers... as to those... who cause divisions... and should be avoided

Note that... not all of these markers... need to be shared by... any one person

But we get... the point... or as Jude... Paul... and Peter... are warning... we should get the point

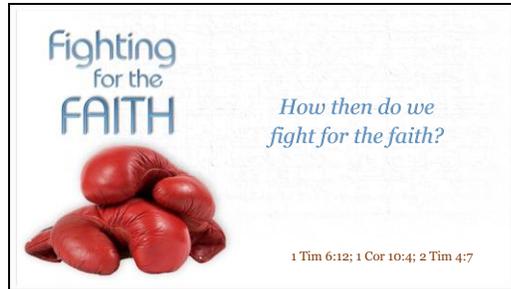
And as was pointed out... knowing there is a point... to be gotten... is by knowing... the scriptures... and the character of... the Lord of the scriptures... for ourselves

Rom 16:17 ...note those who cause divisions and offenses... and avoid them.

Php 3:17 ... join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Now to the next question?

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Does fighting for the faith... consist of getting in the ring... and slugging out some... doctrinal difference?

Perhaps... sometimes

Occasionally Jesus... and his disciples... found themselves... in such contendings

1 Cor 10:4 - For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Does it simply mean... ignoring and avoiding... the division causers?

And later said of himself:

Sometimes... perhaps... maybe even... separating them... from the flock

2 Tim 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

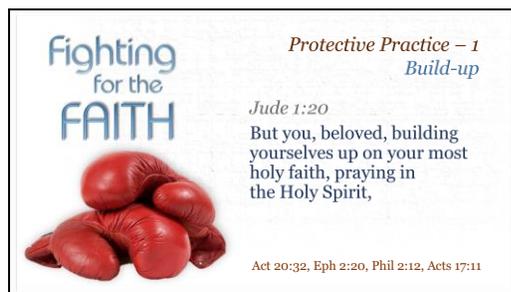
Fight for the Faith... is a good thing... Paul encouraged... young Timothy

How then do we fight?

1Tim 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...

Jude offers up... some guidance:

Slide 13



First and foremost... build up yourself... in the faith

This is your... only protection... from the great deception.

Get to the gym... and workout... your faith... with fear and trembling
Get in the word... get on your knees... get deep with... the Holy Spirit

When Paul encountered the Bereans... they didn't simply... take his word... that Jesus was the... long awaited Messiah... but:

searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:11 ...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and

We need to... build ourselves up... by knowing... these things to be so... from the scriptures... like the Bereans

Next Jude says:

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Fighting for the FAITH

*Protective Practice - 2
Keep-up*

Jude 1:21
keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

1Tim 6:14; 2Tim 4:1,8; Titus 2:13

Not only... are you to build up... but to keep up

Keep up... your relationship... in love... and in hope...

Keep up... your faith... looking always... for the glorious appearing... unto that great reward... eternal life

Build up... your knowledge... and faith...

Keep up... relationship... and hope

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Fighting for the FAITH

*Protective Practice - 3
Lift-up*

Jude 1:22
And on some have compassion, making a distinction*252 (KJV)

And convince some, who doubt; (RSV)

On some have compassion... the Greek... literally have mercy

Which some? ...the RSV helps in ...making the distinction

The Greek - 1252 διακρίνω... is a compound from... dia – Through / krino - Judge

In any contentious environment... there will be those... firm in the truth... and those firm... in their opinions

The KJV translators... seen this as... you judge... or make a distinction... between some... upon whom... to have compassion... or not

Then there are those... undecided... doubters... uncertain

The RSV translators... thought it to be... a definition of... upon whom... you should... have that compassion... i.e. those who doubt

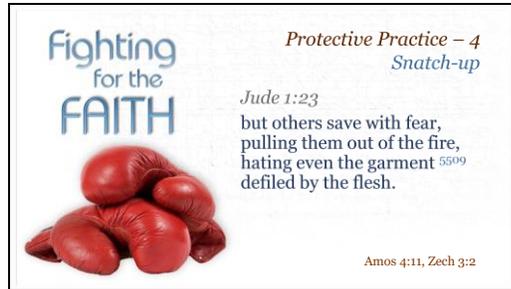
Build yourself Up... in your own... faith and wisdom...

In-other-words... have mercy... show compassion toward... seek to help... lift up... enlighten... them that doubt...

Keep Up... your own relationship... with God... by prayer and communion

Those who are... having a hard time judging... which side is right

Then you will... be able to have compassion... to aid... and edify... i.e. Lift Up... those who... are undecided



Pulling – Gr... 726 ἀρπάζω har-pad'-zo... Lit. - to seize, carry off by force

Some ar in doubt... and need convincing... some are deep... in the flames

Snatch them up... out of the fire... before it's too late...

Beware those... who cause divisions... Build-up... your faith... Keep-up... relationship... Lift-up... others who doubt... and Snatch-up... those on their way... to perdition

Like in verse 7's reference to... the fires of Sodom and Gomorrah... and

Verse 11... refence to Korah

As he said at the opening:

Hating – loathing... detesting... not the person... but the garment...

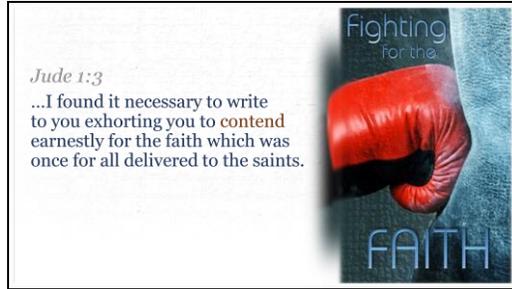
The 5509 χιτών khee-tone'...a tunic... an undergarment... usually worn next to the skin... those most likely... to be polluted... by the flesh

“I have overthrown *some* of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.” (Am 4:11 AV)

Hate the sin... but save the sinner... snatch them... burn your own hand... if necessary... but snatch them out... to safety

“And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire?” (Zec 3:2 AV)

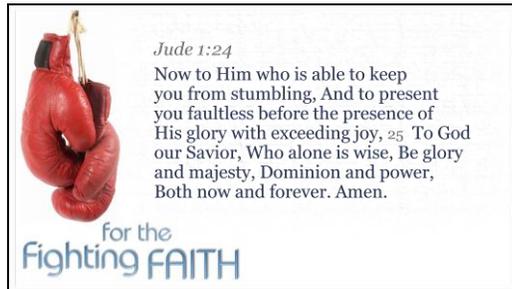
Slide 17



Now... As Jude closes... this little letter... in prayerful tones

It is as if... he chose to remind... his readers... just who... our strength... safety... and hope

Slide 18



It is this Jude... brother of Jesus... who came to see... That Jesus was not... simply his brother in the flesh... but his savior... the one able to prevent... him from falling.

He is able to keep you too!

Slide 19



613 Fight the Good Fight

Note to Piano Player: Use alternate familiar tune from song 82