

## DON'T BE EASILY SWAYED

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The closing paragraph of last week's devotion began with *We are called out of this dark world to a world of light through the Son*. As a believer in Jesus, one who claims to be a disciple of Jesus (which you are by definition), and a believer in His teachings, you have been called to be a bright light in this world of evil. Also, you are to defend what you believe.

The epistle of Jude is a warning about false teachers in the Lord's church, as they led people away from the saving knowledge of the truth and the judgment to come. Today, some people view the belief in a final judgement as intolerant, unloving, and contrary to the message of love proclaimed elsewhere in the New Testament. If you are reading this and have this opinion, please realize this thought comes from the pits of hell, which you will experience firsthand. *"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds."* (Revelation 20:12)

Have you ever started something and then changed your mind because of something you realized was more important? This happened to Jude. *"<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."* (Jude 1:3-4)

As a Christian, you must cling to the truth of God's Word, even when your faith is shaken. You must not listen to the world. When you do this, it leads you away from your faith in God to something else you trust. If you trust completely in God, when you have doubts and fears, you have shown your faith in Him to get you through them and grow your faith. By trusting in God and seeing Him work in your life, you are more likely to fight for the truth of God's Word instead of believing what culture claims as truth.

More than likely, you do not see individuals in your assembly on Sunday spreading false doctrine to others. However, some just stop believing for various reasons. These are footholds for Satan to pull them away from their faith. Why did God allow this to happen, or why didn't God answer my prayer? These thoughts are weapons that Satan uses to cause doubt and pull you away from Jesus. Don't mistake evil for good. *"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"* (Isaiah 5:20). Christians have doubts and fears. This doesn't make you a bad Christian; it's just part of human nature. These are really opportunities to step out on faith and let God ease and solve those doubts and fears. This gives God a chance to prove Himself to you. What happens? Your faith grows.

People have the freedom to choose. With the wrong influence, poor choices are made. Anytime someone walks away from God, it's not just a poor choice; it's a spiritually life-threatening decision. *"<sup>22</sup> Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup> Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup> As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father."* (I John 2:22-24)

Some people have taken scriptures and twisted them to align with their beliefs. This is wrong any way you look at it. You cannot make things mean whatever you want them to mean. In no way should an attempt be made to change God's Word to support what you believe. When someone tries to make scripture mean whatever they want or ignore the actual meaning of God's Word, they are violating scripture, walking away from God, and they put themselves in place of God. <sup>18</sup> *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.* (Revelation 22:18-19)

Yes, the Elders are to be on guard and prevent the false teachers in the assembly of believers. Ask yourself this question. Who is Jude writing to? Is it the Elders, or is it the believers who make up the assembly? The answer is, *"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints"* (Jude 1:3)

Jude wrote to the church to warn them of people leading members away from God. The other issue is, why did people walk away from their faith in God? Why all of a sudden did they change their mind and leave the church? Even after a warning from Jude, people still abandoned their faith. <sup>5</sup> *Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day"* (Jude 1:5-6)

In today's world, people still turn their backs and abandon their faith. Your faith gains strength from reading and studying God's Word and then living based on God's Word. The more a person walks by faith and not by sight, the more their faith increases. We all need to follow Paul's example: *"for we walk by faith, not by sight."* (II Corinthians 5:7) Live by the Truth because it sets you free. Have a blessed week.

Give Me Faith:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjFIhTNDyz0&list=RDSjFIhTNDyz0&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjFIhTNDyz0&list=RDSjFIhTNDyz0&start_radio=1)