

## Jude 17-23 – How Do I Survive In Apostate Times?

October 10, 2021

### 1. To survive apostasy, I must remember the words of the apostles.

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." Jude 17–18 (ESV)

#### A. The presence of false teachers is certain.

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.  
Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (ESV)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,... 1 Timothy 4:1 (ESV)

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2:1 (ESV)

#### B. The portrait of a false teacher is clear.

##### • They are scoffers.

They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers,..."  
Jude 18 (ESV)

...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:3–4 (ESV)

- They are sensual.

...following their own ungodly passions... Jude 18 (ESV)

- They create divisions.

It is these who cause divisions,... Jude 19 (ESV)

I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. 3 John 9 (ESV)

- They are without the Holy Spirit.

...worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. Jude 19 (ESV)

## 2. To survive apostasy, I must remain in a growing relationship with God.

### A. We must build ourselves up in the faith.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith...  
Jude 20-21 (ESV)

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32 (ESV)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 1 Peter 2:1–2 (ESV)

But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,... Ephesians 4:11 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

**B. We must pray in the Holy Spirit.**

...praying in the Holy Spirit,... Jude 20 (ESV)

...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)

**C. We must keep ourselves in the love of God.**

...keep yourselves in the love of God,... Jude 21 (ESV)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:9–10 (ESV)

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

**D. We must wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus.**

...waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. Jude 21 (ESV)

**3. To survive apostasy, I am to rescue the lost.**

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10 (ESV)

**A. We are to show mercy to the spiritually confused.**

And have mercy on those who doubt;... Jude 22 (ESV)

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

**B. We are to snatch the convinced out of the flames.**

*...save others by snatching them out of the fire;... Jude 23 (ESV)*

*"I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD. Amos 4:11 (ESV)*

**C. We are to be careful around the committed.**

*...to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Jude 23 (ESV)*

## Conclusion

1. I am to remember the words of the apostles. False teachers will always be present.
2. I must remain in a growing relationship with God.
3. I must rescue the rescue the lost, snatching them from the flames.

### Life Group Questions

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1. Review the message. What was most impactful?
2. How can false teaching be a blessing to the church? How has God used false teaching in a good way in church history?
3. Jude gave us four characteristics of a false teacher in verses 18-19. (See the above sermon outline for those characteristics.) What do these kinds of people look like in today's context?
4. How can the church be a merciful place for those struggling with doubts about their faith? What doubts do you have? How has the Lord responded?
5. Who should be "snatched from the fire"? Why does Jude use such urgent language with this group of people? What kind of apostates should Christians limit their rescue efforts? Why? Have you seen a spiritual rescue hurt the life of a Christian?
6. Jude talked about praying in the Holy Spirit? What does that mean? What do these verses teach us about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our prayers? See Romans 8:26-27, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6.
7. Jude talked about the importance of keeping ourselves in the love of God. What do these verses teach us about the blessing of delighting in obedience to God and God's Word? See John 14:21, John 15:9-10, Acts 13:43, 1 John 4:16.
8. Jude sent us on a rescue mission save those deceived by apostates. What do these verses teach us about saving the lost? See James 5:19-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:14, 1 Corinthians 15:33, Galatians 6:1.