

Douglas Humphrey

Fighting for the faith: Jude's call to stand bold. / Jude 5–11

Central Idea for the Series: Jude's letter serves as a call to stand firm in the faith amidst increasing spiritual deception and ungodliness. This series explores Jude's urgent message on defending the truth, identifying false teachings, and maintaining spiritual integrity in our journey of faith.

This series uncovers Jude's challenging yet deeply relevant message for the church today. It will encourage believers to recognize the signs of falsehood, reject the allure of watered-down faith, and renew their commitment to contend for a faith that transforms lives. Just as Jude wrote with urgency to awaken the church in his day, we too are called to be unwavering in our devotion to Christ, courageous in confronting spiritual threats, and compassionate in extending mercy to those on the brink. This is the faith worth fighting for, and it demands nothing less than our full allegiance and perseverance to the end.

Welcome, Volunteers, recap last week... Yet we still have more work to do.

Have you ever stood at the edge of a cliff? Maybe you've peered over, feeling that mix of awe and fright b/c you were so high up. In life, faith often feels like walking that thin line near the edge of a precipice. We know the truth, but the winds of temptation—jealousy, greed, rebellion—threaten to push us over.

The book of Jude sounds the alarm, urging us to stand firm. To guard God's Word from profitters. It's not a casual warning; it's like the flashing lights and blaring sirens of an emergency alert, like the ones that come across our phone when there's a missing child or imminent danger. [Jude 5-111. a](#) grim reminder of how easily people can fall when they ignore God's truth.

And he warns, us because he knows what's at stake. He knows the subtle lure of a "more convenient" faith or the false promise of a life untethered from God's authority. And he knows that such paths don't just lead us off course—they lead to ruin.

Today, as we return to the book of Jude, we'll explore three consequences of ignoring God's truth. If you've ever fantasized about loosening your grip on faith, softening your theology, or even returning to your old life before Christ, these verses are here to jar you back to reality. They remind us that the stakes are eternal and that contending for the faith isn't a happy suggestion, rather it's necessary for your very existence.

Let's open our Bibles to [Jude 5](#). Today I have...

Three Consequences for Ignoring God's Truth...

beginning with...

You become a cautionary tale for others v. 5–7

Jude says...

"Now I want to remind you, although you came to know all these things once and for all, that Jesus saved a people out of Egypt and later destroyed those who did not believe" (v. 5).

This reference points to the time when God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. Jude attributes their deliverance to Jesus, emphasizing His role as God's agent of deliverance. Just as Jesus delivers people from the bondage of sin today, He was at work saving the Israelites then. Yet, when some of the Israelites rebelled they were destroyed due to their unbelief.

This stark reminder shows us that God doesn't play favorites. He punished His own chosen people when they turned against Him, proving that apostasy—rejecting God never goes unpunished.

Jude continues with an even more astonishing example consider...

"the angels who did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains in deep darkness for the judgment on the great day" (v. 6).

These aren't just any beings—they're angels, created to dwell in God's presence. Yet, some of them rejected the authority and roles God gave them, craving more power and freedom than they were assigned. They abandoned their God-given positions and rebelled.

Thus, demons came into existence. While this isn't the time for an in-depth study of demonology, for now here's what you need to know:

- **Angels are created spiritual beings** designed by God to serve His will in both the natural and spiritual realms, though their primary function is in the spiritual realm.
- **A group of angels “did not keep their own position”** and fell from grace. This rebellion likely occurred between [Genesis 1:31](#) (when God declares creation “very good”) and [Genesis 3:1-5](#) (where Satan tempts Eve).
- **Lucifer, also known as Satan or the devil**, is the leader of the fallen angels, now called demons.
- **Satan and his demons actively oppose God** and seek to destroy His works, including those of us who belong to Christ.
- **Satan is not the opposite equivalent evil to God.** God is all-powerful; Satan's power is limited. Jude reminds us that Satan and his demons are “**kept in eternal chains until judgment day.**” In other words, they are like dogs on a leash—they can only go as far as God allows.

This truth should give us a deep sense of relief. Although Satan seeks to destroy us, his power is restrained. He can't reach you unless you willingly come to him, but that's a discussion for another time.

Back to Jude's point: even the angels—beings closer to God than we are, dwelling in the heavenly realm—turned apostate. A group of them rebelled against God, and they will face His judgment.

The final group Jude points to as a cautionary tale of what not to do is... **Sodom and Gomorrah v7 says.**

"Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns committed sexual immorality and perversions and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire" (v. 7).

These cities were infamous for their unbridled lifestyle, particularly sexual immorality. What's chilling is how closely their story parallels ours. Like Sodom and Gomorrah, our nation embraces the idea that people should be free to pursue any desire, as long as it's consensual. But this mindset leads to deeper depravity. Unchecked sin doesn't stay contained—like the weed - it grows, consuming priorities, resources, and relationships. Never being satisfied.

Jude's warning is clear: the path of unchecked sin leads to judgment. Those who follow it, like Sodom and Gomorrah, will face God's eternal punishment.

These three groups—the Israelites, the fallen angels, and Sodom and Gomorrah—serve as a warning, that **what happened to them can happen to you!**

That's the first of our three consequences of what happens when you ignore God truth, you become a cautionary tale to others. Second....

You look for ways to legitimize the life you want to live. v. 8–10

That's exactly what the apostates Jude warned against in verse 4 were doing—they sought ways to legitimize their sinful lifestyles so that they could be accepted as normal.

Verse 8 says, “**In the same way these people—relying on their dreams...**”. “Dreams” refers to prophetic visions. While God often communicated through such means in both the Old and New Testaments, Jude makes it clear that these were not divine revelations. And we know this b/c how the word dreams is used to modify the verbs: *defile*, *reject*, and *slander*.

One scholar notes that Jude calls these individuals “dreamers” because they claimed divine revelation to justify their sinful practices. IOW they used manufactured revelations, addendums to sound doctrine to elevate themselves. And or to justify the type of Christian life they wanted to live.

Consider the pseudo Christian cult known as Latter Day Saints, LDS for short who teach that God instructed the men to practice polygamy as means to achieve exaltation and populate the celestial kingdom. God didn't tell them to do that and

he doesn't encourage polygamy. These men wanted to be free to act on their lustful urges, this had nothing to do with populate heaven. Last I checked, the only way a person get to heaven is Jesus Christ, no procreation.

But they and others like them say that God revealed this to them. The challenge is, how do you refute someone who claims to have heard directly from God? If you question them, you risk being labeled an enemy of God or shunned by their followers. This is why so many false teachers and heretics remain in leadership. People fail to check their claims with Scripture, instead they bow their heads and say to themselves *who are we to challenge God's revelation?*

And so these dreamers, with their "fresh revelation from God" used it as a license to justify three sinful activities:

1. They defiled their flesh.

Like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, these individuals indulged in every carnal desire without restraint. Nothing was off-limits—not even homosexuality. They twisted the truth of Christian freedom, claiming that God's grace placed them above moral accountability.

Their mindset was simple: "If it feels good, it must be right." As the old song says, *"If loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right."* But they should want to be right—right with God. Every apostate who distorts God's grace into a license to sin is in open rebellion against GOD and invite they invite His judgment.

Not only that...

2. They rejected authority.

These dreamers refused to submit to God, denying His authority over their lives. They lived as though their desires were the ultimate standard.

Take Richard Dawkins, for example. As an outspoken atheist, Dawkins rejects not only the existence of God but also the very idea of divine authority. In his book *The God Delusion*, he argues that belief in God is both unnecessary and harmful, championing personal autonomy instead.

Dawkins's worldview is a stark example of what it looks like to reject divine authority—such a person is only answerable to himself, so they think. But Scripture calls us to a higher standard, one that places God's Word above human reasoning.

Last...

3. They slandered glorious ones.

Jude accuses these individuals of brazenly disrespecting angels. Their slander wasn't just ignorance—it was arrogance. They mocked what they couldn't understand, dismissing God's spiritual messengers as trivial.

In verse 9, Jude contrasts this arrogance with the humility of Michael the archangel. When Michael was confronted by Satan himself, he didn't dare condemn the devil on his own authority. Instead, he deferred to God, saying, "**The Lord rebuke you!**" Michael's example is a sharp contrast to the arrogance of apostates who, full of ignorance and hubris, dare to speak against angels and the spiritual realm—realities far beyond their understanding.

Their reckless defiance exposes their foolishness. As the saying goes, "**Better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.**" Clearly, these apostates missed the memo.

But what motivates such arrogance? Jude explains in verse 10: "**What they know by instinct—like irrational animals—by these things they are destroyed.**" Instead of considering spiritual truths, processing information, or deferring to someone more knowledgeable, they act on animalistic impulses. They follow their fleshly desires.

Animals operate purely on instinct—they don't deliberate or think critically. When a wolf sees a plump sheep and feels hunger, it doesn't pause to think. It pounces. I once had a squirrel dart onto my porch, steal part of my lunch, and sit on the fence eating it while staring at me. It didn't care that it had put its life in danger; it was driven purely by the impulse to eat.

Similarly, Jude compares these arrogant apostates to irrational animals. They mock and defy spiritual beings without considering the consequences. Just as an animal might rush into danger without understanding it, these individuals blindly follow their impulses, which ultimately lead to their destruction.

This second consequence of ignoring God's truth challenges us to examine our lives. Are we relying on God's Word as our ultimate authority; or are we justifying our actions with convenient excuses? Too often, we manufacture rationalizations like:

- **God wants me to be happy.** This assumes personal happiness justifies any action, regardless of God's will.
- **Everyone is doing it, so what's the big deal?** This conforms to culture instead of God's standards.
- **It's better to ask for forgiveness than permission.** This abuses God's grace, treating sin like it's inconsequential.

When we make excuses to do what we want, we dismiss God's authority and rebel against Him. Jude's warning reminds us... that the consequence to ignoring God's truth is that you look for ways to legitimize your sin so that you can live the life you want to live. And be not deceived loved one, hidden within the deep recess of our hearts, all of us have fantasy life that we'd like to live if we could get away with it.

But should we head down that path, ultimately our life will end in ruin.... that's our final consequence for ignoring God's truth...

You walk a path that ends in complete ruin. (v. 11)

Verse 11 begins with a thunderous declaration: "**Woe to them!**" This is not a mere expression of sorrow but a pronouncement of God's righteous judgment. The word "woe" in the OT& NT's signals impending doom, as if to say, "How terrible it will be for them," or, "God's punishment is sure." It marks the end for the apostates—the dreamers who twisted God's truth to serve their own desires.

Their judgment is unavoidable; their fate irreversible. Verse 4 confirms this reality: they were "**designated for judgment long ago.**" In His perfect foreknowledge, God saw their rebellion, their plan to infiltrate the church, and their intent to lead others astray. Despite having access to the truth, they deliberately chose to reject it.

Some rebellions are so egregious, so destructive, that God acts swiftly to end them before they spread like a cancer. These rebellions rob God of His glory, defile His church, and condemn the perpetrators to hell. In such cases, God's judgment isn't just warranted—it's urgent and final.

Jude offers three historical examples to make this point crystal clear.

First, he says, "**They have gone the way of Cain.**" Cain's life was marked by jealousy, hatred, pride, selfishness, and outright defiance of God. His example is a warning: those who follow in his footsteps will share in his punishment.

Next, Jude states they have "**plunged into Balaam's error for profit.**" Balaam, as described in [Numbers 31:16](#), used deception to lead Israel into idolatry and immorality—all for financial gain. The apostates are no different. Greed drives their actions as they knowingly lead others away from God for their own benefit.

As a result of imitating Cain and joining Balaam's error, the apostates are said to "**have perished in Korah's rebellion.**" Korah, in [Numbers 16](#), led a revolt against God's appointed leadership, dragging 250-thousand people into his rebellion. God's judgment was swift and severe: the ground opened up and swallowed Korah, his followers, and their families. What a terrifying picture of the consequences of defying God.

So, as you can see, rebellion—willfully rejecting God's truth and leading others astray—only leads to one outcome: the destruction of the deceiver and the ruin of those who follow them. Scripture is clear about the fate of apostates. Yet, despite these warnings, some may still refuse to believe or grasp the severity of the situation.

Jude understood this, and I am certain there are still those today who fail to see just how serious this is.

With that in mind, I want to take a moment to address three specific groups of people.

1. Those who actively work to contend for the faith—be encouraged.

The hard work you put into safeguarding the faith, living according to God's will, and encouraging others to do the same is worth it. On the other side of this life awaits your heavenly reward.

Think of the world like one big Las Vegas: it promises fortune, fame, pleasure, and happiness. But in the end, it delivers only empty thrills and superficial experiences, leaving you with a maxed-out credit card. It's not the life it promises.

Jesus offers something entirely different—salvation, peace, grace, forgiveness, and protection. He gives us what truly matters in this life and the next. Unlike those who perished in Korah's rebellion, we will spend eternity with God.

2nd...

2. Those who are stuck in sin. When we're stuck in sin, we often believe one of two lies.

First, we think, "What I'm doing isn't that bad, so God won't punish me." We justify our actions, telling ourselves, "Everyone else is doing it" or "It's not hurting anyone." But this overlooks God's righteous standard.

In our culture, things like laziness, dishonesty, greed, or sexual immorality have become normalized—but God's standards don't change with society. He sees sin as rebellion against His commands, and even if there's no immediate consequence, that doesn't mean He overlooks it.

The second lie is, "Because God hasn't punished me yet, He doesn't care." We think that because we haven't faced consequences right away, that we're in the clear. But think of it like this:

Imagine speeding on the highway, thinking there's no harm in going 30 miles over the limit. You might get away with it for a while, but eventually, you get a citation in the mail. I remember when my grandma learned this lesson the hard way, speeding at 100 mph in a 70-mph zone. She didn't realize that the speed limit was being enforced by aircraft, and the consequences eventually caught up with her when the mail man delivered her ticket.

In the same way, God's patience doesn't mean He's ignoring sin. It's His mercy, giving us time to repent. But His judgment is certain. The day of reckoning is coming, and when it does, there will be no escaping it. Don't mistake His delay for approval of your sin.

God's judgment is sure, but so is His mercy for those who repent. The question is: Will you? Will you recognize your violation of God's commands and repent?

Finally....

3. To those who are currently deceived or have been deceived by the church.

Deception within the church is real. It happens when we stray from sound doctrine, often getting caught up in teachings or practices that promise instant rewards but lead us away from the full truth of God's Word.

Deception usually starts with small compromises—twisting Scripture, prioritizing comfort over holiness, or focusing on personal gain instead of calling us to be holy and obey God. You may have been part of a church or followed someone that felt welcoming but the full message of repentance, salvation, and holiness was diluted or ignored.

That's one of the reasons why our church, BFC works hard to contend for the faith. We have layers of accountability in place. And I encourage you to study the Scriptures for yourself. If you ever notice a discrepancy between the text and what I've said, I welcome your questions.

That said, It's hard to admit when we've been misled, especially in matters of faith. No one wants to admit they've been deceived, but facing the truth is the only way forward.

I've been there. For me, it was the result of bad teaching that elevated the pastor to an idolized position, where he and the "first family" were treated like royalty. We were taught to give "love gifts" to the pastor, believing it honored him as God's mouthpiece and that it would invoke God to bless us in return. I didn't know any better at the time—everyone around me was doing it, so it seemed right. But in reality, we were deceived.

If you've been deceived, it's crucial to recognize that God's truth is still available to you. Acknowledge your error. Turn to God's Word. Seek repentance. And commit to only receiving teaching from sources that are dedicated to sound doctrine and a literal interpretation of Scripture.

Your past exposure to deception doesn't have to define your future. The warnings in verse 11 about apostasy don't have to be your story. As long as you commit to "contending for the faith," your future will be marked by truth, restoration, and the hope of the Gospel.

Conclusion

I pray that you will heed Judes warnings and do your part to contend for the faith. And always remember what God promises will happen to those who disregard God's Truth; they:

Become a cautionary tale of what not do, who look for ways to legitimize their sin so that they can live the life they want to live, but ultimately their path ends in ruin should they refuse to repent.

Let's pray...

Lord we must confess that living for you isn't the easiest thing to do. All day long we are pulled in a multiple directions, but only one leads to you. We don't want to be a cautionary tale of what not do, so Lord endow us with more of your grace so that we can keep standing for you. Keep us from sinning, but when do cause us to confess and repent quickly, we don't fall into the trap of justifying our sin. And finally Lord, let our story continue into glory not in ruin. Lord there is so much that is beyond us regarding this so, give us the grace we need change what depends on us and the patience and faith to trust you with what's beyond us. To you be the glory, now and forever. AMEN!

Closing

CC, Foundations, Decorate the church, Angel Tree, Prayer/Q's, LGLP