



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley
Jude

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today's focus is on the book of Jude—a short but weighty letter that serves as a warning sign for believers. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus and brother of James, writes not as a family insider, but as a humble servant of Christ. His letter, penned somewhere between 65 and 80 A.D., doesn't offer much in the way of personal application, but instead stands as a clear stop sign: beware of false teachers and false living. Jude's authority comes not from his bloodline, but from his faith and his transformation after the resurrection of Jesus—a powerful reminder that even those closest to Christ had to come to faith in their own time.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. I pray for guidance as we study Jude's life. Bring insight and wisdom to light as we dive deeper. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

For even His brothers did not believe in Him. **John 7:5**

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. **Jude 1-2**

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. **Jude 3**

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. **Jude 4**

But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. **Jude 5**

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; **Jude 6**

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. **Genesis 6:4**

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; **2 Peter 2:4-5**

and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked **2 Peter 2:6-7**

(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, **2 Peter 2:8-9**

as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. **Jude 7**

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" **Jude 8-9**

But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. **Jude 10-11**

These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. **Jude 12-13**

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." **Jude 14-15**

These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Jude 16-17**

how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. **Jude 18-19**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. **Jude 20-21**

And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. **Jude 22-23**

Go easy on those who hesitate in the faith. Go after those who take the wrong way. Be tender with sinners, but not soft on sin. The sin itself stinks to high heaven. **Jude 22-23**
MSG

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. **Jude 24-25**

GO DEEPER:

Jude's warning is not just about what false teachers say, but more about how they live. He draws a sharp distinction between those who make honest mistakes in teaching and those whose intent is to deceive and lead people away from God. The heart's motive is the dividing line. Jude uses vivid Old Testament examples—Israel's unbelief, the rebellion of angels, and the perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah—to show the consequences of crossing God's boundaries. He reminds us that love has limits, and that what the world often calls "love" can actually be lust in disguise.

The letter also cautions against those who are always chasing new revelations, stirring up division, and rejecting authority. Jude calls out the danger of grumbling, pride, and self-serving motives, using the stories of Cain, Balaam, and Korah as warnings. Yet, in the midst of all these warnings, there is encouragement: build yourself up in faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, and keep yourself in the love of God. There's a call to discernment—show compassion to those who are struggling, but be bold and direct with those who are prideful and divisive.

Ultimately, Jude closes with a promise: God is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us faultless before His glory. Even in a world full of deception and spiritual danger, there is security and hope for those who are in Christ.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. The true mark of a false teacher is not just doctrinal error, but a lifestyle that contradicts the heart of God. Honest mistakes in teaching are inevitable, but what sets a false teacher apart is a deliberate intent to mislead and a life that denies Christ's lordship. The motive of the heart is what God weighs most heavily. **[20:02]**

2. Spiritual struggle is a sign of genuine faith. If there's a battle inside you between right and wrong, that's evidence of the Holy Spirit at work. Indifference to sin or a lack of conviction is a warning sign that something is amiss in your relationship with God. The presence of struggle means you're alive to God's call. **[16:52]**

3. God's boundaries are for our protection, and love always has limits. The world may blur the lines between love and lust, but Scripture is clear: true love is selfless, patient, and pure, while lust is self-seeking and destructive. Recognizing the difference is crucial for living a life that honors God and avoids the pitfalls of spiritual and moral compromise. **[30:15]**

4. Discernment is needed in how we respond to others: compassion for the humble and struggling, but boldness and truth for the proud and divisive. Jesus modeled this perfectly—gentle with the broken, but direct with the arrogant. Our approach should be shaped by the spiritual condition and attitude of those we encounter. **[44:18]**

5. Building yourself up in faith requires intentional action: praying in the Holy Spirit, staying rooted in God's love, and looking forward to Christ's mercy. In a world full of spiritual confusion and deception, these practices keep us anchored and strong, enabling us to stand firm and help others do the same. **[41:24]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to Jude, what are some of the main characteristics of the false teachers he warns about? (**Jude 1:4, 8, 12-13**)
2. What does Jude say believers should do to build themselves up in faith? (**Jude 1:20-21**) [**41:24**]
3. The sermon mentions that spiritual struggle is a sign of genuine faith. Why is it a warning sign if someone feels no struggle with sin? [**16:52**]
4. The sermon talks about showing compassion to those who are struggling, but being bold with those who are prideful and divisive. Is there someone in your life who needs more compassion from you? Is there someone who needs you to speak the truth more directly? How can you approach them in a Christlike way? [**44:18**]
5. Jude closes with the promise that God is able to keep us from stumbling. How does this promise encourage you in your current season of life? Is there an area where you need to trust God's ability to keep you more than your own strength? [**45:30**]

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There will be false teachings arise in our life and we will stand on Your Word for the truth. In Jesus' name, amen."