

## Jude 1.17-25 – contend with confidence

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Even when something is very worthwhile, and you can see the evil of those who oppose it, there can be times when it seems like the fight might be lost. You can get disheartened & discouraged & dismayed. Where do you turn at these times? What is important to know and focus on?

**read the whole of Jude.** Take a moment to reflect on verses 3-16 and especially the way it helped shape your week.

Your study will focus on verses 17-25. Read Jude verses 17-19 again. Was it a surprise that godless men would infiltrate the Christians? Not everyone who comes to church is necessarily Christians, why is it helpful to be forewarned of that?

What is the disastrous effect 'these men' bring? How might you respond to people who bring division and why?

Read Jude 20-23:

What do you think it means to build yourself up in the most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit (v20 - cf. 1 Cor 14)?

What is the focus for Christians (v21)?

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Discuss the idea of mercy and how you can show mercy. Why does Jude sound urgent? Why do you think he gives the caution – ‘hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh’?

Read Jude 24-25:

What is God able to do? How does he do this? How do you feel because God is able? (v24)

Discuss what it means for God to receive glory, majesty, power and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord? What does that mean for contending for the faith? (v25)

conclusion:

Discuss the confidence that the end of Jude’s letter gives so that you can keep contending for the faith:

Remind each other of the details of the three ideas we’ve seen from Jude’s letter:

contend for the faith because it’s too good to lose  
contend against the false because they’re evil and offer nothing  
contend with confidence because God is able to keep you.

Discuss practical ways you’ve been challenged to be contending for the faith:

Pray!