



Seek First: Contending

Avoiding a Nasty Fall

By Brett Hilliard, January 23, 2022

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude 1:1-3 NIV

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Jude 1:20-21 NIV

A fourfold strategy:

“By building yourselves up in your most holy faith” (Jude 1:20a)

1. Build your faith .

“And praying in the Spirit” (Jude 1:20b) “...who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.” (Jude 1:19)

2. Have a prayer plan .

“Keep yourselves in God's love” (Jude 1:21a)

3. Be convinced of God's care.

“As you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” (Jude 1:21b)

4. Live with the end in mind .

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What voices or influences have you allowed to “slip into” your life which detract from spiritual growth?
2. What struggle or mindset do you need to entrust to the One who is able to “keep you from stumbling”?