

*Faith* — so amazing

**TO BE CONTENDED**

Jude 1:3-4

Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that **ye should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit impressed upon Jude the necessity to write an epistle that expressed encouragement to believers to “earnestly contend for the faith.” What does that mean and why is it necessary? This morning, we will examine these two verses to understand the answer.

## I. THE AFFECTIONATE CONCERN, 1:3a –“Beloved...”

- ❖ The concern is attention that is directed toward those who are “beloved.”
- ❖ Believers are “beloved” due to the relationship with the “beloved Son.”

Mt. 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

❖ The relationship between Paul and Timothy are connected to their relationship with Christ.

1 Cor. 4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you **Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord**, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace,  
**wherein he hath made us accepted in the  
beloved.**

1 Jn. 4:19 We love him, **because he first loved us.**

II. THE ARDENT COMMONALITY, 1:3b“...when I  
gave all diligence to write unto you of the common  
salvation...”

- ❖ Jude was moved by the Holy Spirit to be diligent  
in influencing other believers.

**Original Word:** σπουδή **Transliteration:** spoudé

**Definition:** haste, diligence **Usage:** (a) speed, haste, (b) diligence, earnestness, enthusiasm.

For the believer, *spoudé* ("speedy diligence") means *quickly obeying* what the Lord reveals is *His priority*. This elevates the *better* over the good – the *more important* over the important – and does so with *earnest swiftness* (intensity).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/4710.htm>

- ❖ Jude was quickly obeying the Lord when he penned this disciple.
- ❖ The description of “the common salvation,” was a general way to say that all believers are saved the same way – “...by grace through faith...”

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:  
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- ❖ Everyone possessing salvation is simply a sinner, a person trust Christ and Him only.

Rom. 2:11 For **there is no respect of persons with God.**

Col. 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons.**

**Original Word:** κοινός **Transliteration:** koinos

**Definition:** common

**Usage:** (a) common, shared, (b) Hebraistic use: profane; dirty, unclean, unwashed.

*koinós* is always used *negatively*, i.e. for what is *profaned*—**except in Jude 1:3 where it refers to the gift of salvation shared (held *in common*) by all true believers.**

Titus 1:4 To Titus, *mine* own son after **the common faith**: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

III. THE AGONISTIC CONTENTION, 1:3c “...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that **ye should earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints.

- ❖ The contents of Jude are needful, necessary to write as fuel for faithfulness.
- ❖ The exhortation is for believers to “knock themselves out” for the sake of the Gospel.

**Original Word:** ἐπαγωνίζομαι

**Transliteration:** epagónizomai

**Definition:** to contend with or for **Usage:** I contend earnestly for – only found in Jude 1:3.

*epagōnízomai* (from *epí*, "focused on" and *agón*, "a contest, competition") – properly,

**to contend (literally, "struggle upon, appropriately"), i.e. with skill and commitment in opposing whatever is not of faith (God's persuasion).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1864.htm>

- ❖ The effort needed is like that of a dedicated Olympian, dedicated to his sport.
- ❖ In order for believers to “earnestly contend for the faith,” the beliefs, or doctrine, must first be known and applied in daily life.

1 Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and ***be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:***

1 Tim. 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith,** lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, **I have kept the faith:**

- ❖ Believers are equipped, at salvation, to possess what is needed for life – “...which was once delivered unto the saints.

**Original Word:** παραδίδωμι **Transliteration:** paradidómi

**Definition:** to hand over, to give or **deliver over**, to betray

**Usage:** I hand over, pledge, hand down, deliver, commit, commend, betray, abandon.

*paradídōmi* (from *pará*, "from close-beside" and *dídōmi*, "give") – **properly, to give (turn) over; "hand over from," i.e. to deliver over with a sense of close (personal) involvement.** <https://biblehub.com/greek/3860.htm>

- ❖ After the Holy Spirit moved Jude to direct believers to contend earnestly for the faith, He then teaches “why” in the next verse.

#### IV. THE ANTAGONISTIC CONFLICT, 1:4

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Spiritual warfare is inevitable. “When” it comes, believers need to “earnestly contend.”
- ❖ The verse (1:4) begins with “For there are...”
- ❖ The men are described as cunning, in that they “crept in unawares.”

**Original Word:** παρεισδύω

**Transliteration:** pareisduó

**Definition:** to settle in alongside **Usage:** I enter secretly, come in by stealth.

*pareisdýnō* (from *pará*, "from close beside" and *eisdyō*, "enter") – properly, enter alongside, i.e. secretly or

under *pretense*. ***pareisdýnō* ("enter by stealth") refers to people who *appear* to be true Christians, but in reality *oppose the faith*. (*pareisdýnō*) is only used in Jude 1:4 of those "*posing* to give help."**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3921.htm>

- ❖ The “creeps” come in the side door, not upfront and genuine believers.
- ❖ Their condemnation, which was described as, “before of old ordained to this condemnation,” means that such knowledge was already “written before.”

**Original Word:** προγράφω **Transliteration:** prographó

**Definition:** to write before

**Usage:** (a) I write previously (aforetime); I write above (already), (b) I depict or portray openly, (c) I designate beforehand. <https://biblehub.com/greek/4270.htm>

❖ The descriptive term for such spiritual creeps is “ungodly.”

**Original Word:** ἄσεβής **Transliteration:** asebéś

**Definition:** ungodly, impious **Usage:** impious, ungodly, wicked. (deliberately against God)

*asebéś* – properly, lack of reverence ("without due respect"), i.e. failing to honor what is *sacred* – especially in the *outward*(ceremonial) sense.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/765.htm>

- ❖ The method is described as “...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...”

**Original Word:** μετατίθημι **Transliteration:** metatithemi

**Definition:** to transfer, change

**Usage:** (a) I transfer, mid: I go over to another party, desert, (b) I change. (transform)

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3346.htm>

2 Cor. 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming** themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be **transformed** as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

❖ God provided grace for the sinners, and they used it as a license to sin.

**Original Word:** ἀσέλγεια **Transliteration:** aselgeia

**Definition:** licentiousness, wantonness

**Usage:** (outrageous conduct, conduct shocking to public decency, a wanton violence), wantonness, lewdness.

*aselgeia* (from *aselgēs*/"brutal") – **properly, violent spite which rejects restraint and indulges in lawless insolence (wanton caprice).** <https://biblehub.com/greek/766.htm>

Mark 7:21 For **from within, out of the heart of men, proceed** evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, **lasciviousness**, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- ❖ Such ungodly men are also unholy and unruly.
- ❖ The lifestyle of the ungodly is a manifestation of their wickedness.

❖ The ungodly were denying Christ, 1:4d “...and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Original Word:** ἀρνέομαι

**Transliteration:** arneomai

**Definition:** to deny, say no **Usage:** (a) I deny (a statement), (b) I repudiate (a person, or belief).

*arnéomai* – properly, deny (refuse);

hence, *contradict*, refuse to affirm or to confess (identify with); disown (repudiate).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/720.htm>

## Summary

In these two verses, Jude 1:3-4, believers are exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith.” The reason is because of spiritual creeps that infiltrate a ministry and will harm the flock.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

## Conclusion

Eph. 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Rom. 8:35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**