

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 12, 2023  
“Contend For the Faith: A Study Through the Book of Jude  
~ The Battle Strategy”  
Jude 1:17-23

INTRODUCTION

The struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but is rather \_\_\_\_\_ in nature; and the epistle of Jude should be considered a \_\_\_\_\_ missive to the church, in the face of this spiritual battle.

Jude wants to do more than just give us the intelligence we need about the enemy. He wants to make sure that as we fight for truth and holiness, we have the \_\_\_\_\_ that we need.

3 STRATEGIES FOR THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Strategy #1: \_\_\_\_\_.

“...for they said to you, ‘In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts.’” (Jude 1:18)

“It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions...” (Jude 1:19)

Jude is doing more here than simply repeating his description of the false teachers’ mistakes—he’s also focussing our attention on the importance of \_\_\_\_\_.

“But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, ‘In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.’” (Jude 1:17)

“in the last time,”/ “the last days” =

According to Jude, this whole period, just like the apostles said, will be characterized by an ongoing problem: \_\_\_\_\_.

When it comes to equipping the church to stand firm and stay faithful in the battle, Jude directs our gaze to the apostolic witness—which is the \_\_\_\_\_ as contained in the NT of the Bible.

This is not only good advice, but the principal weapon of our warfare and

the primary \_\_\_\_\_ in our spiritual arsenal.

The Bible is the best and the final defence against \_\_\_\_\_, and the simplest and most effective counter to \_\_\_\_\_.

Strategy #2 \_\_\_\_\_.

“Keep yourselves in the love of God.” (Jude 1:21)

“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8:38-39)

God keeps us and us we must also keep \_\_\_\_\_ in the love of God. Both are \_\_\_\_\_ and one doesn’t cancel out the other.

God keeps us in His love and He enables us, through the \_\_\_\_\_, to keep ourselves in His love. God preserves us by \_\_\_\_\_ us to persevere in Him.

“...work out your salvation with fear and trembling for God is at work in you to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:12)

3 TOOLS TO HELP KEEP OURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD

• “build yourselves up in your most \_\_\_\_\_.”

It’s a \_\_\_\_\_ effort! If we’re going to mature and be built up it’s something we do \_\_\_\_\_.

We need each other—we need to be in \_\_\_\_\_ with the people of God—building ourselves up, building one another up, each contributing to the growth of the whole.

the construction material =

We can only fight for the faith if we’re building \_\_\_\_\_ up in it first.

But that’s not what Jude is calling us to do here. We’re not called to fight \_\_\_\_\_ the faith. We’re called to fight \_\_\_\_\_ the faith, and we can

only fight for the faith if it's \_\_\_\_\_ to us; if it's our life, our joy, our treasure; if it's our daily food.

• **“Pray in the \_\_\_\_\_.”**

The false teachers, Jude says in verse 19, are “\_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit,” but those who keep themselves in the love of God \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit. The Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ their lives and moves them to communion with God, it draws their hearts out in faith to look away from themselves to Jesus.

These two things together—building ourselves up in faith and praying in the Spirit—are what we call the “\_\_\_\_\_”—the Word of God through which He speaks to us, and prayer by which we respond and speak to God.

• **“waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to \_\_\_\_\_.”**

Jude is calling us, in \_\_\_\_\_, to look to that great day when Jesus will return.

**Strategy #3: \_\_\_\_\_.**

“And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.” (Jude 1:22-23)

This third strategy tells us how to \_\_\_\_\_ to 3 different groups of people.

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of giving them a harsh smack down or \_\_\_\_\_, Jude says we need to show doubters \_\_\_\_\_.

The reality is, we're all \_\_\_\_\_ and we all need mercy—even the strongest believer among us.

Help them to fix their eyes on Jesus. Open the \_\_\_\_\_ with them. Pray with and for them.

• \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who don't know God as He's been revealed through \_\_\_\_\_.

The mission of the church isn't about \_\_\_\_\_ society's problems—it's

about \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel of grace and inviting people into a saving \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus.

As the people of God, we're the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Gospel of grace by which people are saved from the judgment to which their rebellion and disobedience is sending them.

• \_\_\_\_\_.

This group consists of believers who've been swept along by the morally \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle promoted by the false teachers. Mercy again is the attitude here, however this time, it's to be mixed with \_\_\_\_\_ because sin is very dangerous, and can \_\_\_\_\_ like a cancer.

As we show mercy to those who've fallen into a pattern of ungodly living, we need to beware of the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and temptation ourselves.

Sometimes it's easy for us to become so \_\_\_\_\_ to sin or \_\_\_\_\_ about it that we forget how powerful it is and how quickly we can fall. And so, Jude is calling us to have a super sensitivity and a scrupulous \_\_\_\_\_ to keeping our distance from sin that could mark and entrap us.

As we minister to others, it's crucial that we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and our hearts.

## CONCLUSION

It's a pretty strange war that Jesus is calling us to wage; and it's so counter-cultural that greatest weapon we wield is \_\_\_\_\_.

When this is our strategy, the enemy will \_\_\_\_\_ and we will be, as Paul says in Romans 8:37, “more than \_\_\_\_\_ through Him who loved us!”