

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**

175 How to Combat Heresy Part 11

WOSM Tuesday 07/08/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about "How to Combat Heresy". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 17-21** again together:

17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,
18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."
19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.
20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Now we are continuing to go over the first of the four ways that Jude gave us to combat heresy when it comes to our Church. This first way is based upon the inspired words that Jude wrote to us in verse 20:

1. Build Yourself Up on Your Most Holy Faith

And we have also seen that there are 10 separate Biblical keys for every believer to become spiritually strong; edified; mature; and equipped. So, let's go over the list:

1. Prayer
2. Bible Study

3. Godly Fellowship
4. Obedience
5. Being Filled With the Spirit
6. Confession
7. Love
8. Trust
9. Witnessing
10. Discernment

Now we have already gone over the first four items- Prayer, Bible Study, Fellowship, and Obedience and today I want to look at the fifth way that will help us build on our most holy Faith- and that is Being Filled With the Spirit.

Now being filled with the Spirit is a subject about which much has been written and said. And this radio broadcast is not designed to get into that level of discussion. But suffice it today that to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. So, if we are to comprehend that Truth- we must know two things:

The Holy Spirit brings lost people to Jesus. So that means, of course, the Holy Spirit is present and active during the entire process of Justification. No one can be justified apart from the active participation of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is true to say that all saved people have been sealed with the Holy Spirit at the moment of being Justified in accordance with **Ephesians 1:13**.

The Holy Spirit comes to give us power. The Acts 1:8 says:

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Now, power to do what? In the Bible, the Holy Spirit came to give born again people the power to resist temptation; the power to obey God; the power to evangelize the lost; and the power or the ability to comprehend the Word of God.

In **John 16:8**, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit comes to the earth in order that the lost world will be reproved or convinced or convicted of

three things:

1. Sin
2. Righteousness
3. Judgment

So, the Bible clearly teaches that no sinner can ever be convicted or convinced of his own personal lostness without the Holy Spirit opening his eyes so that he can see. And the Holy Spirit does this all by Himself without any aid or assistance at all from the unbeliever.

This is because in our lost state- all men are, by nature, dead in sins and trespasses and blind and in their lostness- they do not love God; they do not serve God; they do not care one whit for the things of God. You see, my friends, lost souls do not possess the power or the ability in themselves to hear the Voice of God and they do not have the capacity to seek after God on their own volition because lost souls are in hostile rebellion towards God by their nature. Not only is lost man totally separated from God and openly rebellious toward God- but in his lost state- man is completely unable to do anything about it by and through his own power. This leaves lost man in the terrible position of not only being lost and unsaved and unable to do anything about his lost condition- but by virtue of his utter lostness- unregenerated man is also unwilling to do anything about his lost condition.

So, the ability or the capacity or the power for dead, blind; deaf, dead souls to even have the desire to see and hear the Gospel and then the ability to believe and repent of their sins and accept Christ into their hearts is the sole work of the Holy Spirit alone.

This is what I mean when I say that Salvation is a Sovereign work of a merciful God to lost men who do not deserve His Grace.

After Salvation, it is the Holy Spirit which leads the believer into what is called Sanctification- which is the lifelong process of being molded and shaped and formed into the very Image and Likeness of Jesus Christ.

This process of Sanctification involves blessings and glorious things- but it also involves tests and trials and tumults and afflictions and sufferings and unfair treatment and persecutions. And through the accumulation of all of these things- both good and bad- God uses them

to burn out of you all the hay, the wood and the stubble so that you may come forth as pure gold.

So, we can see that the Holy Spirit does a lot of wonderful and very important things in us and for us. But we must understand that all of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us and in us and to us and with us *before* Salvation- He does alone- Sovereignly- without any help or assistance or cooperation from us at all. But *after* Salvation- we are commanded in Scripture to do strange sounding things like- surrender; yield; obey; submit; and follow when it comes to the Holy Spirit.

So, to be Filled With God's Spirit is to Surrender to God's Spirit; to be fully yielded to the Holy Spirit and to be led and to follow the Spirit's call. It is in fact to surrender your mind; your heart; your body; your time; your talents; your treasures; your ambition; and your dreams to the control of the Spirit.

For example, when you picture in your mind a powerful and wealthy and successful businessman like say, Donald Trump- who is very energetic and very ambitious- someone who is a mover and a shaker; someone who is very pragmatic and who makes decisions based upon his own wisdom and what is best for himself- you have a perfect snapshot of someone who is driven by his own personal ambition and who is not controlled and led by God's Spirit.

An example of someone who is filled with God's Spirit would be a man like Paul- who abandoned his own personal success and ambition and who willfully submitted himself to a life of unbelievable ridicule, persecution, torture and prison so that God would be glorified in the Gentiles. It was while in Prison; chained to the wall; the rats nibbling at his feet; while he was beaten and bleeding and unwashed and unshaven and alone that Paul wrote these words, birthed from the reality of a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit:

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

You see, being led by God Spirit allowed Paul to suffer enormously- so that the Gospel may be taken from the hands of unbelieving Jews and given to the world.

Have you fully surrendered to God's Spirit or are you still living and operating according to your own desires and ambitions and ideas and strength?

Being driven by personal ambition always leads to dissatisfaction. But being led by God's Spirit always produces an inner roar of gratitude and thanksgiving. Because Spirit led people realize that they deserved God eternal wrath against their sin and instead of God giving them what they rightly deserved- God gave them Mercy. So whatever God brings into their lives- what difference does that make? They are going to Heaven eventually and right now they have the high honor of bringing glory to God- and ultimately- that's all that rally matters!

Exactly what can evil men do to a person whop is in love with Jesus and filled with God's Spirit? Kill him? What send that person to go be with Jesus forever? How is that harming him?

Let me give you an example of what this thanksgiving that comes from a Spirit filled life looks like. Benjamin Franklin recorded the first Thanksgiving holiday in the New World. Franklin wrote this,

"In a time of great despondency among the first settlers of New England, it was proposed in one of their assemblies to proclaim a fast. But an old unnamed farmer arose, reviewed their mercies, and proposed that, instead of provoking heaven with their complaints. That they appoint a time of thanksgiving."

These people were cold and hungry and starving and many of them died that winter- but instead of complaining about their lot- they began to bring forth gratefulness and thanksgiving at the fact that by God's good Grace they had been gloriously saved! This is the power of the Spirit.

As Christians, we have God's Personal guarantee that we will one day receive our eternal reward in Heaven- even if that means never seeing one good day here on this earth. The Holy Spirit brings back to our remembrance all of God's promises so that anything that we have to endure now- we will be able to do so with joy and peace and love and with an ever growing sense of gratefulness and thanksgiving.

Listen to me. Lost, unsaved, unregenerated souls can only be happy if all is well. Their joy and their peace and their fulfillment in life is based upon what happens around them. But a Christian is

supposed to walk by faith and not by sight and we rejoice and are content because of what has happened *in* us- regardless of what is going on *around* us. Only the power of a Spirit filled life gives us the ability to do this.

On top of all that- it is the Spirit that illuminates our minds so that we can understand God's Word. I have long time taught that the understanding of God's Word does not come simply because of translation or interpretation- but by revelation of the one single true meaning of every verse into the heart and mind of the worthy seeker.

If you don't consider the understanding of God's Word to be a very big deal- then this won't impress you very much- but if you realize that God's Word is a gift, and the understanding of His Word is a divine blessing- that can only come through the Holy Spirit- then you will rejoice at being filled with God's Spirit. Being filled with God's Spirit will make you strong in the Lord and the Power of His might so that you will be able to combat heresy.

Well, I have to stop right here but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.