

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude** Part 19- **Jude 24&25** 209 Blameless Before God- Part 1

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Welcome again my beloved in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to look at Jude taught about “God Empowering us to be able to Stand in God’s Presence Blameless and with Great Joy”. So, let’s read Jude verses 24 and 25 again together:

**24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

Now over the last several broadcasts, we have been examining verse 24 and I have been going over just how God keeps us from falling and how God is able to present us faultless and just how this all works out in our lives. I have been discussing the reality that even though we are saved- we are also sinful, and it is that dual status of being simultaneously righteous and sinful that shows us just how Christ is able to keep us from falling.

Back in the 16th Century when God was using the Reformers to bring the Church back to Biblical Truth- there was a Latin phrase that summarized this very issue of how Christ is able to keep us from falling. Martin Luther used this phrase in his teaching and the phrase is:

Simil Iustus et Peccator

And the Latin word, “simil” means *simultaneously*; The word, “iustus” means *just or righteous*; the word, “et” means *and* and the word, “peccator” means *sinful*. So what Luther was teaching by using

this summary was that people who are justified by Grace through Faith in the finished work of Christ alone live in a state of being simultaneously just and sinful at the same time.

And if you can grasp this issue- dear friends- then you will easily understand how our Salvation can be eternal even though we still sin and how we can live in a state of actually being sinful while being just before God.

First of all, let me assure all of you that I am not teaching anything here that excuses sin in any way. God doesn't excuse sin; Jude didn't excuse our sins; Paul didn't excuse our sins, and neither am I. When we sin, we are wrong and when we sin- we need to repent. Anyone who knows me at all knows that I am not teaching that sin is okay or that sin doesn't matter. I really don't believe that if you have listened to these broadcasts for any length at all that you could arrive at the notion that I am saying in any way that sin is okay.

But we must understand, dear friends, that the issue about God keeping us from falling and about Him presenting us faultless before His Throne is not an issue of sin- it is an issue of righteousness. And this is real important- so listen up.

God keeping us from falling and God presenting us faultless is not an issue of whether or not we sin- because every one of us sins every single day. We sin because we are human, and we sin even when we are doing our best not to. But God keeps us from falling and God presents us faultless as Jude says here in verse 24 precisely because this has nothing to do with our sins- but whether or not we have been declared to be righteous. And this is why the dual status of saved people is of the utmost importance.

First and foremost, we have to come to terms with the fact that nobody is made righteous by what they do for themselves. Nobody can make themselves to be righteous in God's sight. That is because only perfect and continuous righteousness is considered to be righteous in God's Eyes.

In other words- the only Righteousness that is good enough to make any human being born of woman acceptable to God is righteousness that is both perfect and continuous. So, if you sin just one time or if you only commit one sin one time- you are forever disqualified from ever being good enough to stand before God through

your own efforts. Read what the prophet Isaiah said about this in **Isaiah 64:6**:

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Now what this means is that the Bible says that the best that we can do as frail human beings- when everything is working right, and we are operating on all cylinders- our human righteousness that comes about by what *we* do rises to the level of only being a filthy rag.

So, if Salvation or even staying saved once we are saved is determined by what we do- then nobody is saved- because everybody sins- even after they are saved. In other words, if we are kept by God only because we have walked perfectly before God- then nobody will be kept because nobody walks perfect before God.

Now part of the confusion about this issue lies in the correct definition of a particular word that is used frequently in the King James Version Bible. There are thirteen different Hebrew words and ten different Greek words that are all translated into English as “perfect”. But in every case except three- this word does not mean “sinlessness”. Most of the time- the words that were translated into English as “perfect” actually mean “finished” or “complete” or “to be in accord with”.

Now what I just said to you is a fact of language that you can look up and see for yourself. The English word, “perfect” that is used 99 times in the King James Version of the Holy Bible does *not* mean sinless perfection except in very rare cases.

So, the notion that some teach that we can reach a place of sinless perfection in this life and on this earth prior to the return of Jesus Christ is simply not taught in the Bible. In fact, the Bible teaches that even after we are saved- we still have sin in our lives. Please read with me **1John 1:8**:

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

So, the Apostle John says here that if anyone believes or teaches or says that they have no sin- they are self-deceived, and the Truth is not

in them and so if you are in a Church that teaches that human beings can be sinless after Salvation- run- do not walk- run out of there immediately because the Bible says that those people are self deceived.

What happened after we were saved is that the *domination* that sin had over us has been broken by the power of Jesus Christ and we no longer serve sin as a bonds slave to sin. We are now bonds slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ. But even in that new creation state- Salvation purchased our souls- but did not purchase our bodies. That is why the bodies of saved people continue to get sick after Salvation and each saved person eventually dies and goes back to the earth- because the bodies of believers were not saved- only their souls. This is also why we are going to get a new body in Heaven- because the old body is not redeemed and is still under the curse.

Now I can go into great lengths with this and I will be glad to continue this discussion at another time- but the irrefutable proof that what I just said is true is the fact that everybody dies. Saved people who love and serve Jesus Christ faithful die just as evil people who hate God die- everybody dies.

Now this fact is also why the teaching that says that Divine Healing is part of the Atonement is not correct either. Listen, God can and does heal sick bodies- there is no doubt about that- and when someone is sick- it is proper and correct to pray for them to be healed. But when you say that physical healing is part of the *Atonement*- you are linking physical healing with Salvation, and you are in effect saying that it is always God's Will to heal every saved person every time they are sick the Bible doesn't teach that at all.

God heals the bodies of sinner and saint alike according to His Own Perfect and Sovereign Will- not as a result of us twisting God's Arm by praying certain prayers or of psyching ourselves up or of standing in a healing line for some evangelist with a hot hand to pray for us.

There are times when it pleases our great God to issue Mercy to us and heal our bodies and there are times when the very same loving God- for reasons that He alone understands- chooses not to heal us and we are left with saying, "*Praise the Lord*" to either one.

But to teach that it is always God's Will to heal all the saved people all the time as long as we exercise enough faith is simply not taught in Scripture and this teaching does nothing except set people up to become very disillusioned when your false teaching doesn't come to pass and

someone they love stays sick or even dies. We have to be careful, dear friends, that we don't add to what the Bible says as much as we guard against taking anything away.

If you take some time to study about what the Bible teaches about God's Sovereignty- then a lot of this will make more sense to you. If you need help along that line- write or call me and I will get you some information that will help you.

But we have to come to a place, beloved, where we realize that we didn't get saved because of what we do and therefore we can't lose our Salvation by what we do. Now when I say that- I can hear all the responses. I know them all very well, you see, because I was on the other side of this issue for over 30 years. But I was wrong about this issue and many of you are wrong about it too.

Justification is a Sovereign act of God alone and it occurs without any action by Man at all and in fact, the Bible clearly teaches that Justification occurs without Man even cooperating with God.

And because that is true- because it is true that Salvation is a Sovereign act of God alone- then and only then can Salvation be eternal. If in any way Man causes or even cooperates with his own Salvation- then Salvation becomes totally dependent on what we *continue* to do- rather than on what Christ has already done for us.

Now some of you will, say, "Amen!" to what I just said. You will agree that Salvation does depend on what we continue to do. And you believe that as long as we continue to walk holy before God- we will remain saved and if we depart- we will lose our Salvation. I understand the logic completely because I was there with you for over three decades- until I began to study the Bible.

You see, the problem with believing that dear friends, as we just read in **1John** is that nobody- and I mean *nobody* walks holy before God without sin. You don't walk without sin and neither do I.

And what eventually happens is that everybody who believes that we can lose our Salvation by what we do that is wrong or by what we don't do that is right eventually migrates into one of two places.

Either you begin to believe that while it is possible that *other* people can lose their Salvation- you just don't believe that you can lose yours- or else you sink into total despair- realizing that you are never going to be good enough to stay saved.

The first group are called Pharisees and the second are called hopeless. Those who believe that theoretically it is possible for *others* to lose their Salvation, but they will never lose *theirs* are placing all their trust in their own ability to walk perfect before God while those who fall into the second trap are much more realistic than the first group and they *know* that they still sin and lose hope of ever being good enough to remain saved.

And while there are some who are listening to me right now who are in the first group- most of you are in the second and you live in constant fear that God will not allow you into Heaven because of your sins that you continue to commit. And I want to tell you right now that Salvation is eternal and because it is the result of what God did for you and not the result of what you did for God- and you can't mess it up and you cannot destroy it.

And I'll tell you how you can know if you are in the first group- if what I just said made you mad and your about to turn the dial- you're in the first group.

Now I'm certainly not finished with what needs to be said about this issue. There is much more that we need to go over- but I'm out of time for today. But I plead with you not to just write me off but please hear me out, dear friends and at least let me finish this teaching before you reject it and I promise you this will all make sense and tie right back into what Jude is teaching here in the last two verses of this great Epistle. 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.