

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

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

### Chapter 16- Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy **Jude 22-23**

### 191 Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy Part 3

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WOSM Wednesday 07/30/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are going to continue to examine what Jude taught about "How to Win Souls in an Age of Apostasy". So, let's read **Jude 22& 23** again together:

**22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting;**  
**23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.**

Now many of you have written or called and asked how you can reach your loved ones who have gone into a cult or who are deceived by false teaching. And you are dismayed that people that you love are carried about on the winds of these clouds without water; these wandering stars and these brute beasts- who creep into the Church to deceive the simple.

Well, in these two verses, Jude gives us God's answer. And we have already studied the first way that Jude gave us- by using compassion- and today, as I mentioned on the last broadcast, we are going to begin to look at the second way that Jude said that we are to deliver people out of false teaching.

In verse 22, Jude says that of some of those who are led astray- compassion will work. So since genuine compassion is a divine tool to use in the deliverance of a wayward soul- it was important that we study just what compassion is and what compassion is not. And if you missed those teachings, let me know and I will get you a copy.

So now, in verse 23- Jude writes to us under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and says that we need to use another tactic to rescue

deceived souls. Let's read verse 23 again to see what God the Holy Spirit inspired Jude to say:

**save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.**

This part of Jude is quite interesting, because there are several aspects of this verse that we need to be made aware of. Jude clearly tells us here that we are to utilize fear with some people who have been deceived through false teaching. And the reason that Jude tells us to use both compassion and fear is that people are different. Compassion may work just fine with those who are of a gentle spirit and who can be easily led. But all people are not gentle, and some people need more desperate means to deliver them from the horror of deception.

But in order to reach these people who have been led astray correctly, we must understand just what this fear that Jude mentions here is and we are to also understand how to use it.

And I want us all to understand that this fear is to be on both ends. We are to use fear and we are to operate in fear.

Now I realize that right off the bat, many of you are saying that this can't be right because Jesus would never want any of us to ever use fear. It is commonly thought today that using fear is unloving, unkind, and even unchristian, but that is simply not true. According to my own research, it has only been in my lifetime that godly fear is no longer being employed by the Christian Church to correct wayward living. So that means that for over 1800 years, the Christian Church employed godly fear as a very effective tool in delivering souls from deception.

When I was first saved in the summer of 1971, I was told over and over that God doesn't want anyone to be afraid of Him. That was drilled into my head so much that not only did I believe it- but I began to study about just what fear is.

The word that was translated into English here in verse 23 of Jude comes from the Greek word which means: *that which strikes terror; dread; or fright into the heart*. But this word also means: *to have godly reverence and holy respect*.

So, this word has the connotation that correct godly reverence; a proper respect for that which is holy; linked or combined with that

which strikes terror into the heart can and does modify the behavior of human beings.

So, we can see that when Jude was writing this Epistle, he was not just using words that sounded good, but this man was operating under certain assumptions that we need to explore if we are to get the full meaning of what Jude was saying here.

First of all, we must realize that the abundance with which a person can sin with abandon is directly proportional to how much he fears God.

In other words, where no godly fear exists- sin abounds. Today, sin that was done in secret is now done in public. Things are proudly said and publicly performed today that people would have been afraid to do just fifty years ago. Why is that? Why have the evil and wicked people become so bold in our day? How is it that people sin and yet not be convicted of that sin? How is it possible that we can have so many who attend Church every week, and yet who live in direct opposition to the Word of God? What was once done in secret is now done in broad daylight on the street corner.

Beloved, if we are to understand just why sin has exploded on the scene in our day- we can look no further than this- people no longer fear God. Because we have exchanged the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which emphasized God's holiness for bubble gum; feel good; pop psychology which emphasizes the felt needs of Man- we have lost the fear of God and with that loss of fear is an exponential increase in sin in our lives; in the Church; and in the culture.

So, let's look at fear and let's see if fear is from God or the devil and let's see if fear is a very effective tool to use to deliver souls out of the hands of false teachers.

So, I want to begin this study by reading some passages from the Book of Proverbs.

### **Proverbs 1:22-29**

**22 "How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge?**

**23 "Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.**

**24 "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;**

**25 And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof;  
26 I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes,  
27 When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a  
whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.  
28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me  
diligently but they will not find me,  
29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD .**

So, we can see here that those who hate knowledge are the very people who do not know or love or apply the fear of the Lord. Now look what the wisest man in all the world wrote about godly fear in **Proverbs 2:1-5:**

**1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments  
within you,  
2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;  
3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding;  
4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;  
5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of  
God.**

Now from this Passage, we can see that not everybody is going to have the fear of the Lord in their lives. Only those who those who receive God's Word; those who treasure God's Commandments within them; only those who make their ear attentive to Wisdom; those who incline their heart to Understanding; those who for Discernment; those who lift their voice for understanding. The Bible says here that the only people who will have the fear of God in their lives are those who seek for it to the same degree that the lost world seeks after silver and as the world searches for hidden treasure. Solomon said that only these people will ever know the fear of the Lord.

Now look what he wrote as God the Holy Spirit moved upon him to write in **Proverbs 8:13:**

**The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way  
And the perverted mouth, I hate.**

So, the Holy Bible says here that the fear of the Lord is to hate evil, and to hate pride, and to hate human arrogance- which is defined as the evil way and the perverted mouth. Now to “hate” something is to despise it and to refrain from it. So, in this Passage we can see that those who fear the Lord change the way that they live so that they refrain themselves from evil, pride, arrogance, and from walking in the way of evil men, and they do not speak wicked things.

So, the only conclusion that we can arrive here is that those who do *not* hate evil- but those who *enjoy* and who *promote* evil; those who do *not* hate pride- but who walk in pride; those who do *not* hate arrogance- but who walk in arrogance; those who walk on the broad road with evil men; and those who boldly speak wicked things are those who do *not* have within themselves the fear of God. Now look at **Proverbs 9:10:**

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

Solomon tells us here that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And with this Truth- we can assume two things. Firstly, we can surely say that those who fear God will not only begin to learn wisdom, but will persevere on into it; and secondly, we can also assume that those who do *not* fear God do not possess even the beginnings of true Wisdom- which means they are foolish in a moral sense of the word. Now look at **Proverbs 10:27:**

**The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.**

So here we see that godly fear prolongs days because many of the evil and sinful things which would cause our lives to be quickly snuffed out will not be engaged in by those who fear God. Now look at **Proverbs 14:26&27**

**26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.**

**27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, That one may avoid the snares of death.**

So, the Bible says here that inside godly fear resides holy confidence- not human arrogance. And the reason that this godly fear is a fountain of life is precisely because godly fear modifies our behavior so that we do not engage in sin so easily and carelessly. Now look at **Proverbs 15:16:**

**Better is a little with the fear of the LORD Than great treasure and turmoil with it.**

**Now** this verse tells us that the fear of God brings forth contentment and satisfaction, which is also the foundation of thankfulness. So, we can assume then that those who are *not* content; those who are *not* satisfied with what God has chosen to provide for them; those who are *not* thankful for God's gracious Provision but who have been deceived by the false teachers to become grumblers and complainers are those who have *no* fear of God. Now look at **Proverbs 15:33:**

**The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.**

Again, from this verse we can see that those who have no fear of God are not instructed in wisdom and that true honor follows behind biblical humility. Now read **Proverbs 16:6:**

**By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.**

**And** this verse clearly states that by the tool of godly fear- men actually do depart from evil. So, it is true that fear causes us to not sin so much and so easily.

So, I don't know what you have been taught about fear, dear friends- but God's Holy Word says that godly fear is probably the very best thing that any of us could ever have and so I would suggest to all of us that we pray earnestly for a great revival in our day- not a revival of hooting and hollering and of jumping up and down and falling on the floor- but a revival of the fear of the Lord.

Well, I have so much more to go into with you about the Fear of God, but I have to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue to explore the **Epistles of Jude**. May God help us all.

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