

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

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

### Chapter 3- The Common Salvation **Jude 3**

#### 17. The Common Salvation- Part 9

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WOSM Tuesday 11/27/07; WPAS Tuesday 05/13/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude meant when he talked about the “**Common Salvation**”. So, let’s read **Jude 3** together:

**Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.**

Now we have been studying what Jude meant by using the term, “**common salvation**” here in verse 3 and to do that we were looking at the four characteristics of the first Church that we found in **The Acts 2:42** that says:

**They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.**

So, we can see that based upon this verse- what made the Church of Jesus Christ to be “common” or alike was that four characteristics were the same in all of the Churches:

1. They continued steadfastly in the Apostles Teaching
2. Fellowship
3. Breaking of Bread
4. Prayer

Now on the last broadcast- we were looking at the fourth characteristic that made the Church to be common or alike and today I want to continue to examine this powerful attribute- prayer- and we

were right in the middle of examining how Jesus taught us to pray by looking at His pattern for prayer given to us in **Matthew 6**

And on the last broadcast- we were looking at what it means to know and to believe and to comprehend and to say and to pray that God is to be hallowed by looking at the prophet Isaiah's first reaction to the Presence of God in **Isaiah 6:5**:

**Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."**

Seeing God in His fullness as high and lifted up caused Isaiah to repent. The very first reaction that we should have to the glorious Presence of God is humble repentance- not celebration. We cannot and we must not celebrate the Lord until we are right with God and when we live in unrepented sin; when we disobey God's Word; when we walk contrary to God' Will- we are not right with God, and we must repent.

Look at what happened when Isaiah repented in **Isaiah 6:6&7**:

**6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.**

**7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."**

When Isaiah came into the Presence of God, he immediately saw the contrast between Almighty God and himself and he repented. He humbled himself; he decreased; he acknowledged his faults; he confessed his sin. And the result of his repentance was that God cleansed him and pardoned him and allowed him then to be useful to God. Look at **Isaiah 6:8**:

**Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"**

Because Isaiah had a correct view of God and himself; because Isaiah was willing to acknowledge his sin; because Isaiah was willing to have that sin burned away- he was now in a position to be used by God.

Beloved, I tell you that if you are living in unrepented sin- your worship to God is an abomination; the songs of praise that you sing with lips that speak perverse things is wicked in the Eyes of God; the hands that you raise in church that do evil outside of Church do not bring honor to God.

What is the answer? Look at Jesus. See Him high and lifted up; See His train fill the temple. Feel the posts of the door of your heart move at the sound of Him. And then when you see Him correctly as above only and yourself as below only- then run to the altar; confess your faults; repent of your evil deeds and then rejoice as God burns away your filth and then God will be able to use you in a great and mighty way.

We have already covered some amazing things about prayer, and we still have not gotten to the point where we are reading off our long list of what we want, have we? We still haven't been able to ask God for all the stuff that we lust after, have we?

No, we are still praying scripturally and by praying the way that Jesus taught His disciples to pray- we must go through these steps before we ever think about asking God for anything.

We already have talked about God being our Father. We have already talked about God being and ruling from His throne in heaven. We have seen how we must know and understand and comprehend what it means that God is to be hallowed, and we have now seen God as being high and lifted up and we have seen the contrast between ourselves and God and we have been convicted by the Holy Ghost about where we have failed and where we have come short and we have honestly confessed our sins and we have gone through the burning of God's cleansing fire; and now we come to a very interesting part of prayer in **Matthew 6:10**

### **Your kingdom come...**

Jesus told those who were saved to pray that God's Kingdom would come. Come from where? Come to where? Jesus taught his disciples to earnestly pray that God would interrupt man's plans; that God would interfere with man's ideas; that God would violate man's free will and that God would impose; that God would bring down from heaven to this earth- His Own glorious Kingdom.

Once again, we can see that even in prayer- it is all about God and not about us. Jesus said to pray that God's Kingdom; God's righteous and holy Kingdom would come down from heaven and sit upon the earth and take the place of all of man's kingdoms.

You see, man has *many* kingdoms. Man has great plans for himself that mostly do not include God. But man doesn't know that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and God isn't concerned in the least about man's plans.

I tell you that the day is coming when all of the kingdoms of this world will be thrown down and will be absorbed into the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ and all men will bow and all men will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and all men will get off their thrones and Christ will reign on high. So you can see that we are told to actively and fervently and earnestly pray that God's Kingdom will come.

Have you noticed that we still haven't got to the part about asking God for anything that we want? That's amazing, isn't it?

Now we come to a very important part of prayer that is greatly misunderstood in the second part of **Matthew 6:10**, when Jesus told those that love and follow Him to pray:

**Your will be done On earth, as it is in heaven.**

The saints of the Church in the Bible knew that it was far more important to pray that God's Will be done than that God would do something that they wanted. That is why Jude said that these saints had what was called, "The Common Salvation".

Again, this verse is little if ever talked about because it maximizes God's importance at man's expense. Jesus said to pray that the Will of God would be accomplished in the earth to the very same extent and with the very same urgency as the Will of God is accomplished in Heaven.

Can you just imagine how easy it is for the Will of God to be done in heaven? Can any of us even begin to realize that not one angel; not one heavenly being argues with God about whether or not what He has commanded is necessary; that God speaks one time, and it is instantly done; that no one in heaven requires a sign; no one has to have any confirmation; no one has any need for God to repeat anything that He has spoken. No, God's Will is instantly and totally

and completely carried out in heaven without one hint of disagreement or rebellion.

Ever since God cast satan out of heaven like lightning- there has been total harmony in heaven. God's Will is carried out without hesitation 100% of the time. And Jesus told us to never be satisfied until God's Will is performed just like that down here on earth. Jesus told us to earnestly pray that we won't rebel; that we won't dig our heels in; that we won't disobey; but that we will run to do God's will; and that we do God's Will quickly- that we won't require Him to repeat Himself over and over again. That we won't require 13 signs and 52 confirmations, but that when God speaks- we will spring into action; When we read something in God's Word- we will instantly accept it as being True and we will repent, and we will go and do likewise.

Beloved, this is how the early church prayed and this is how we should pray today.

Well, we still haven't gotten to that list, have we? But you know what has happened? As we have been going through the things that Jesus said to spend time praying about- we have begun to scratch off one item at a time and our list of stuff that seemed no necessary and that seemed so important to us before we prayed God's way is now much shorter- because we have either have already received the answer by praying the way Jesus said to pray or else we can see clearly that what was on our list was selfish, corrupt and contrary to God' Will and we really don't even want those things now that we have begun to pray correctly. Isn't that amazing?

Now that our hearts have been changed by praying God' Will; now that we see God high and lifted up; now that we have humbled ourselves to God- God now wants us to ask Him something for us, and the next thing that Jesus said to pray for is found in **Matthew 6:11:**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

God wants to provide that which we have need of. He wants us to develop a complete dependence upon Him for those things which will sustain life- even the small things that we have the power to do for ourselves. We are not fully trusting God if we only trust Him for that which is impossible. We need to learn to ask and to trust and to believe and to depend on God for the small things as well and the

large things of our lives. And then as we receive even the bread that we eat- we must return all praise and all glory and all honor to Him for providing it.

We must remember here that the purpose of the life of prayer is not to get stuff from God- but to learn to trust Him; to learn to depend upon Him; to learn to rely upon Him and to learn to give thanks to Him. Those who did the most for God all through the centuries are those who did not elevate themselves to become independent people- but were those who became totally dependant upon God for the basic necessities of life- even food and water.

And although we still are not allowed to tell God all that we want yet- we have now come to one of the most important places of prayer that any human can arrive- the place of forgiveness. Jesus taught his disciples to now pray something vital to our walk with God in **Matthew 6:12:**

**And forgive us our debts, as also have forgiven our debtors.**

No one can say that they have truly prayed until and unless they have seen God as being high and lifted up. No one can say that they have truly prayed until they begin to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. No one can say that they have truly prayed until they have seen the great contrast between a holy God and themselves. No one can say that they have truly prayed until they have been smitten with genuine holy conviction and have repented. No one can say that they have truly prayed until they have become totally dependant upon God- even for the basic things of life. And my dear beloved, no one can say that they have truly prayed until they come to a place of genuine and complete forgiveness for those who have wronged them.

I tell you that this kind of prayer was common in the early church. Those who were saved and who made up the first Church continued stedfastly in the Apostle's Doctrine. They had glorious times of godly fellowship. They took the Lord's Supper correctly; and they earnestly and fervently prayed.

These were the characteristics that made the Church of Jesus different than anything else on earth and this is what all saints had common among themselves. This is what made up what Jude called, the common salvation and Jude said that we must earnestly contend

for this very same Faith that was once delivered to the saints. 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.