

# 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**

### 193 Winning Souls in an Age of Apostasy Part 5

---

WOSM Friday 08/01/08

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 over the last several broadcasts, we have been dealing with the issue of fear. Is fear from God? Is fear something that is useful and productive in the believer's life? Many would so, "No". They would then point to a number of verses which seem to confirm their belief. Let's look at **1John 4:18**:

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.**

Now many people point to this verse and say that it is therefore not God's Will that we fear. And that if we fear- it is only because we have no faith or trust. But now let us also read several other passages:

**Psalms 111:10**

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom:**

**Proverbs 1:7**

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

**Proverbs 8:13**

**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.**

**Proverbs 10:27**

**The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.**

**Proverbs 14:26-27**

**26 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.**

**27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.**

So, we can see that we seem to have a conflict between what the New Testament clearly says and what the Old Testament says. The passages that we just read from the Old Testament seem to tell us that the Fear of the Lord is a good thing- it is the beginning of both wisdom and knowledge; it is the foundation of hating pride and arrogance and the other things that God hates; it prolongs our days; and the fear of the Lord brings forth strong confidence.

Yet when we read the New Testament we see that God Himself has not given us a spirit of fear; then we read that fear has torment and that perfect love casts out fear.

So, do we have a contradiction here? Have we uncovered an area where the Bible contradicts itself? No, we have not. There are no contradictions in the Bible. There are several areas where the Bible says things that seem to be hard; there are several areas where the Bible reveals great and profound mysteries about which we don't understand- but we may rest assured that the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of the living God contains no contradictions.

But what are we to make of this? Is fear a good thing or a bad thing? Is fear something that we should desire or is fear something that God would never give us, and that perfect love casts out?

Part of our problem lies in the area of language. The Bible was not written in English. The Word of God was written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. The King James Version or the New King James or the

NIV; the English Standard Version; or the NASB; or the Holman Christian Standard version are all English translations of the Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic words that were on the original autographs.

So, this presents us with what is called a language barrier. This barrier is real, and it must be dealt with if we are to understand exactly what God has said in His Word and it presents us with certain challenges- but it is easily overcome with a few simple tools. God has greatly blessed us in these last days with numerous language tools that are very inexpensive, and which are readily available.

But the serious student of the Word cannot grasp the Truth until and unless he employs these tools, because of the way that the English language is formed. English is not the best language for getting to the true meaning of words.

For example, I say that I “love” macaroni and cheese and I “love” the Dallas Cowboys and I “love” my wife and I “love” God. All of those emotions are four different levels of affection that I have for various things in my life, yet English only has one word to describe them all. So, the English language is very inadequate many times to fully express the meaning of what I am trying to say.

On the other hand, Hebrew and especially Greek doesn't have that problem. There are several words in Hebrew and five different words in Greek which describe affection that we would call “love” in English. So, if we are to understand exactly which type of love that God is talking about in His Word we must know which word was used or we will get the wrong interpretation- and from our wrong interpretation- we will get the wrong Doctrine.

So, we have two choices. We may go to school and learn Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic. This is a viable choice because many schools still teach that this is the only sure way that we can comprehend the Word of God. In fact, up until the mid 1800's, if any man desired to be a Pastor, it was a requirement for him to be able to read, write, and speak fluent Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic before he could graduate.

The most prolific men of God in Church History all were fluent in the ancient languages. Because we do not emphasize this language barrier enough today- we have many glaring mis-interpretations of Scripture and false doctrine that abounds.

But barring going back to school and learning the ancient languages, we can still arrive at an accurate interpretation of what God has said by employing the various language tools that are available.

For example- the word that was translated into English as “fear” in **1John 4** is the Greek word, *fobos* and the word translated as “fear” in **Psalm 110** is the Hebrew word, *yir’ah* (Strong’s#3374). And both of these words mean the same thing: *that which strikes terror or dread into the heart and that which brings forth reverence and respect.*

But while the words mean the same thing- they are used in two different contexts. What the Apostle John was talking about in **1John 4** is the terror and the dread of facing God in eternity- which is a frightening prospect when you consider that we are all sinners. John was not talking about generic fear or the fear of a burglar outside your house or the fear that you might have if your child gets sick.

The Apostle John is teaching that because we are saved by what we believe and not by what we do- that our faith in the risen Christ is enough to carry us through the Judgment of God upon our lives. And so, we don’t have to fear standing before God- if we are truly saved- because what Jesus did on our behalf is enough to carry us through God’s Wrath- all the way to Glory.

But the context of what the psalmist wrote in **Psalm 110** is entirely different. We are absolutely supposed to fear God. We are to have this godly and reverential respect for the Almighty and if we are blessed to possess this quality- we will walk in wisdom because we will not do and we will not believe and we will not behave like those who do not have that kind of reverential respect for God and who sin with impunity. Now look at a different kind of fear from **2Timothy 1:7**

**For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.**

Now some Bible Versions use the word, “fear” here instead of timidity. But what the Apostle Paul was telling the young Pastor of the Church at Ephesus, named Timothy was that as a Pastor; he must be a man of mercy; he must be a man of compassion; he must be a man of godly love- but as he stands and proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ- Timothy needed to know that he will fail in his calling unless he has a holy boldness; a righteous authority so that he may fearlessly

proclaim the Word of the Lord to people who really don't want to hear it.

Paul is telling Timothy all through 1 & 2 Timothy that true Pastors; genuine men of God who have been called by God to proclaim the Word of the Lord are not called to be comedians. Pastors are not anointed so that they can entertain people. Pastors are not employed to lift up people's self esteem. No, men of God are called to help to prepare men to enter into eternity. Pastors are anointed to help people confront their own sinfulness. Pastors are empowered and authorized to proclaim and herald unashamedly the majesty of God and the fullness of Christ and the horror of sin; and the certainty of judgment and the duty of believers and he is to paint a portrait of the Glory of God in his sermon whereby men see their own sinfulness and unworthiness so that they fall down on their faces and cry out to God for mercy.

Preaching is worship and until men see God in His Glory through the words that the pastor sings in his sermons- men will continue to be self absorbed with their own importance.

Here is what all of this means to the pastor. If one lost soul receives comfort in his lostness by anything that a pastor says or does, and God requires of that lost sinners life- he will surely go to hell- but the Bible says that the blood of that lost man will be requires at the hands of the pastor who did not warn him to repent.

Beloved- if you can grasp that- it will put the proper fear of God in you. So, while it is true that God has not given us the spirit of timidity or the spirit of cowardice because both of those things would hinder the man from fulfilling his office as pastor- it is also equally true that God *has* given the pastor a reverential awe and a godly respect for the enormity of the task that he has called us to fill- and without that fear- the pastor will fail in faithfully carrying out his office.

If people are led astray by what the pastor teaches; if one soul is deceived by false teaching that comes forth from the Pastor's mouth- rest assured that God will judge that deceived soul- but rest assured also that his blood will be dripping off the pastor's hands. Once again, there is no way to look at that sobering picture and not have a correct and proper reverential and godly fear in your heart.

The pastor studies to show himself approved unto God. He is commanded in Scripture to diligently examine and research and investigate and dissect the holy and marvelous Word of God so that

when he speaks he never puts his own spin on what God said, he is careful to never put into the Bible what he wants the Bible to say; he doesn't just repeat what the famous television preachers are saying; no, he studies so that he may correctly bring forth objective, propositional, divine truth and not just something that tickles the ear of the listeners. And he is to bring forth that which God said if everybody agrees with it or if nobody agrees with it. The popularity of the word is not the criteria by which motivates the pastor. He has no options; he has no wiggle room; he either proclaims that which God has said rightly, fully, and fearlessly or else he is a liar and a reproach to the Gospel.

This is what Paul meant when he said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel". Every pastor who alters the word so as not to offend someone; every pastor who twists the word so that it means something that God never intended; every pastor who dulls the edge of the sword so that sinners are not warned and every pastor who whitewashes how important all this is- is in fact ashamed of the Gospel.

Pastors must not fear men- they must not fear that if he preaches the truth that wealthy man might leave and take his money with him; he must not fear that someone might get offended by that which God has said- that kind of fear is the timidity and cowardice of men and Paul is telling Timothy that God never gave that spirit.

But pastors are to fear God. And we all are to fear Him who has the power to cast both body and soul into hell fire and we are to reverence Him, and we are to respect Him, and we are to love and obey Him.

And I can assure you that the more he studies; the more he researches; the more he investigates; the more that he examines the unsearchable riches of Christ- he begins to realize that God is infinitely holy and Sin is infinitely offensive and that wrath is infinitely just and Grace is infinitely precious and that even though we are not serious about this stuff- God is very serious about heaven and God is extremely serious about Hell and this knowledge will strike absolute terror into the heart of the pastor and that terror will cause him to not only learn rightly- but this terror will compel him to live rightly and it will also do a third thing. Lets' read **2Corinthians 5:11a**:

**Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men...**

We persuade men to lost sinners to repent and we persuade unregenerate men to turn from sin and we persuade save men to serve God precisely because we understand the terror or the right and proper fear of the Lord and those who do not warn the wicked; those who do not compel the sinner; and those who do not teach the righteous are those who do not fear the Lord and are those who are derelict in their duty.

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America  
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the Epistle of Jude. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

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.