

**CONTENDING
FOR THE FAITH**

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.
¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

JUDE 1:17-23

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

JUDE 1:17-23

²² Be merciful to those who doubt;
²³ save others by snatching them from
the fire; to others show mercy, mixed
with fear—hating even the clothing
stained by corrupted flesh.

JUDE 1:17-23

Jude is one of the most
neglected books of the
New Testament.

Jude addressed the risk of
apostasy in the church.

I felt compelled to write and urge you
to contend for the faith that was once
for all entrusted to God's holy people.

JUDE 1:3

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith.

1 TIMOTHY 6:12

²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:26

**CONTEND
THEOLOGICALLY**

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.
¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” ¹⁹ These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

JUDE 1:17-19

A) SCOFFERS

Jude referred to them as “the
ungodly” throughout his epistle.

⁸ In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse.

JUDE 1:8

¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.

JUDE 1:10

¹⁶ These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

JUDE 1:16

B) DIVIDERS

They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

JUDE 1:4

¹⁷ But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

JUDE 1:17

We are vulnerable because
Christianity is under attack from
the outside and the inside.

Beware of the scoffers and
dividers lest you become like
them and lead people astray.

**CONTEND
SPIRITUALLY**

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

JUDE 1:20-21

**A) BUILD
YOURSELF**

⁴ Anyone who speaks in a tongue
edifies themselves.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4

The Apostle Paul believed
that praying in the Spirit could
be a normative practice for
all believers.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions
with all kinds of prayers and requests.

EPHESIANS 6:18

Tongues engages your spirit
while prayer engages your
understanding.

¹⁷ Pray continually.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

Do you want to cultivate depth
and length of your prayer life?

If so, then you need to
experience the baptism of the
Holy Spirit and then practice
praying in the Spirit.

**B) KEEP
YOURSELF**

Jude encouraged his readers
to keep themselves in Christ
by being fully dependent on
God's love.

⁸ Come near to God and he will
come near to you.

JAMES 4:8

Jude encouraged his readers to
also keep themselves by being
fully expectant of God's mercy.

To those who have been called,
who are loved in God the Father
and kept for Jesus Christ.

JUDE 1:1

**CONTEND
MISSIONALLY**

²² Be merciful to those who doubt;
²³ save others by snatching them from
the fire; to others show mercy, mixed
with fear—hating even the clothing
stained by corrupted flesh.

JUDE 1:22-23

A merciful approach.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 PETER 3:15

An emergency approach.

A mixed-methods approach.

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!"

ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

Then he said to Joshua, “See,
I have taken away your sin, and I will put
fine garments on you.”

ZECHARIAH 3:1-5

The church in the twenty-first century needs to understand that we cannot have a one-size fits all strategy.

Jude teaches us that we need all
three approaches in order to be
missionally effective today.



THE ORIGINAL "KARATE KID"

²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

JUDE 1:24-25

SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) CONTEND THEOLOGICALLY
- 2) CONTEND SPIRITUALLY
- 3) CONTEND MISSIONALLY

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH