

If You're Going To Fight For Something... Fight For The True Faith!

Jude 1:3-4 (J.B. Phillips) - I fully intended, dear friends, to write to you about our common salvation, but I feel compelled to make my letter to you an **EARNEST APPEAL TO PUT UP A REAL FIGHT FOR THE FAITH WHICH HAS BEEN ONCE AND FOR ALL COMMITTED TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST.** For there are men who have surreptitiously entered the Church but who have for a long time been heading straight for the condemnation I shall plainly give them. They have no real reverence for God, and they abuse his grace as an opportunity for immorality. They will not recognize the only master, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jude 1:3 (MSG) - Dear friends, I've dropped everything to write you about this life of salvation that we have in common. I have to write insisting—begging!—that you **FIGHT WITH EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IN YOU** for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.

Jude 1:3 (ISV) - Dear friends, although I was eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write to you and urge you to continue your **VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF THE FAITH** that was passed down to the saints once and for all.

Jude 1:3 (NKJV) - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 1:3 (YLT) - Beloved, all diligence using to write to you concerning the common salvation, I had necessity to write to you, exhorting to **AGONIZE FOR THE FAITH** once delivered to the saints,

1 Cor. 2:1-5 (ESV)

1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.

2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,
4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

As New Testament believers we should not tolerate...

We should not accept a gospel that does not produce miracles healing deliverance and transformed lives!

1Cor. 4:20 (ESV) - For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

Luke 17:20-21 (ESV)

20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed,
21 nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

Rom. 14:17 (ESV) - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-39 (ESV)

37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"'
39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Wherever the Kingdom of God is present, there will be manifestations of the power of God!

One of the saddest things that I have seen happening in our local "Spirit filled" churches is the substituting of mental assent...

Mental stimulation and inspiration for the power of God!

2 Chron. 12:9-10 (ESV)

9 So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king's house. He took away everything. He also took away the shields of gold that Solomon had made,

10 and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.

John 6:63 (ESV) - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Mark 16:15-18 (ESV)

15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Mark 16:20 (ESV) - And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

Matt. 10:7-8 (ESV)

7 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

The gospel is two parts...

1. The Message = The good news
2. The Manifestation = The power of God producing the results

As Believers, as children of God, our greatest battle is not against the filth and corruption of this world and its temptations...

The greatest battle for the true believer is the battle between Good and Best!

We are called not simply to be saved...

But to manifest to the world the reality of the Kingdom of God!

Every child of God is called and commissioned to be a living demonstration of the full expression of the presence and the power of God through our union with him!

How disappointing it has to be to the heart of father God to have provided so much...

And we are settling for so little!

The faith Jude was speaking of is a living faith!

Now remember... Faith is not born of or exist in the mind!

It is of the spirit!

John 14:12 - I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

John 16:23 - In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

You have to make sure that what you are asking is found "in His Name"!

1John 4:17 (ESV) - By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

We must put up a real fight for the faith!

Fight with everything we have in us!

Vigorously defend of the faith!

Contend earnestly for the faith!

Agonize for the faith once for all delivered to the saints!

In the modern-day Church, we have a lot of NAIL BITERS...

But not many HELL FIGHTERS!

Matt. 11:12 (ESV) - From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

Rom. 8:19 (ESV) - For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Where are the hell fighters today?