

Greater Works Christian Church

Robert A. Enos
Founder and Lead Apostle

Contend Earnestly for the Faith, Part 4

Introduction and Recap:

Jude 3

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.

Note: As we have been studying the book of Jude using the above verse as our key text, we have found that to truly, “contend earnestly for the faith” we must be around the right people. Our relationships will many times determine the level of faith we will have, and what kind of life we will live. When surrounded by people of faith we will be people of faith, as well. When surrounded by those who rob us of faith we will continually struggle in our faith. To “contend earnestly for the faith” is to surround ourselves with the right people, because this epistle is one warning us about those who would rob us of our faith.

Fallen Angels and Fallen Men

Jude 5-9

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.
6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;
7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.
9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Note: v.8) *“Likewise also these dreamers...”*

After describing the fall of certain Angels, Jude points out how the men that he is describing have done the same type of thing. The Angels that Jude is speaking of he describes as those who, *“the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode”*. A closer look at these fallen Angels will help us to see what has happened with the men described by Jude. This also helps to show us the parallels between the spirit realm and the natural realm. The

Bible says, “some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4:1)” these men will become like the demons they are following. This they will do all the while thinking they are following after Jesus (2 Cor 11:14).

From v.6):

Keep (Grk. 5083) *tereo*

- 1) to attend to carefully, take care of
- 1a) to guard
- 1b) metaphorically to keep, one in the state in which he is
- 1c) to observe
- 1d) to reserve: to undergo something

Note: The meaning of this word helps us to understand how these Angels fell. As this word shows us they left the place (or position) they were created for. God created them for something specific and they left their post in search of something more to their own liking (such as Korah, Num 16; Jude 11).

This also shows us that we are to, “attend to carefully, take care of” the ministry and position that God has given us. We cannot seek change (or promotion) on our own, but we must allow God to move us into new and higher positions (I am speaking of spiritual promotion, not job related promotions).

Each of us has been created and designed for a specific position in God’s Kingdom. We have been designed for that position. When we on our own seek after a position and place that we were never created for we have become like one of these fallen angels.

For this reason we must “keep” and nurture what God has given us, and grow in that place, gift and calling until God himself moves us to a new place. Only by doing this will we be assured of finishing the race in a Godly manner.

Domain (Grk. 746) *arche*

- 1) beginning, origin
- 2) the person or thing that commences, the first person or thing in a series, the leader
- 3) that by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause
- 4) the extremity of a thing
- 4a) of the corners of a sail
- 5) the first place, principality, rule, magistracy
- 5a) of angels and demons

Note: God had given these Angels, as well as these men, a domain of their own. Their “domain” was their “first place of power (Vincent’s Word Studies).” This is interesting to see since this word does not describe a place as much as it describes the authority and power used

in a place. These Angels left the position of power and authority that once was theirs; likewise the men described have done the same thing.

Left (Grk. 620) *apoleipo*

- 1) to leave, to leave behind
- 2) to desert or forsake

Note: This word shows us how these angels and men have walked away from their post and responsibilities. Punishment comes not only for leaving their post (for this is the lesser sin), but for the harm that come to those relying upon them to be at their post (the greater sin).

Deserting ones post leaves many open to harm and destruction and shows a disregard to the authorities above, as well as those under their care.

There are few things worse than a deserter. When one abandons their post (especially in battle) it affects everyone. Those who relied on these Angels and upon these men suffered when they left their positions of authority.

Proper (Grk. 2398) *idios*

- 1) pertaining to one's self, one's own, belonging to one's self

Note: By the use of this word we see that the post that was abandoned could be filled by no other. This is because these positions belonged solely to the ones that they were given to. This is also very important to understand. Many are given unique calls, gifts and positions in the body of Christ. When we abandoned our post we cannot assume that there is someone already prepared to fill our shoes and complete the ministry.

Abode (Grk. 3613) *oiketerion*

- 1) a dwelling place, habitation
- 1a) of the body as a dwelling place for the spirit

Note: These positions of authority and power are the place that these Angels and men were to dwell in. Their habitation was to be a place of continual power and authority. This truth is important since many feel that power and authority comes and goes, "as needed." The truth is that we are to make the power and authority that has been given to us our dwelling place. We can no longer view the gifts, callings and the power of these as something that comes and goes. This is why many only exercise their gifts in the church among Christians. When we understand that our gifts, calls and the power and authority that comes with them are our always, we will be used outside of the church more powerfully than we are used in the church.

Note: v.7) *"as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

The behavior of the men of Sodom and Gomorrah was first witnessed in the behavior of the Angels that are being written about. It is difficult to understand how Angels could be engaged in sexual immorality, but it is none the less true.

Genesis 6:1-4

1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he *is* indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."
4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

These “sons of God” are believed to be Angels as described by Jude. The Book of Enoch also speaks of these Angels that came and took wives for themselves from among the people of the earth. These fallen Angels then would lead others to go after, “strange flesh.” Many have stated that this would be impossible since Angels cannot reproduce with natural women. This may be true while still in their “proper domain” and abode, but one can only imagine what a fallen Angel is capable of.

Watch for those who Leave their “Proper Domain” and “Abode”

Note: The Angels that Jude describes here left their “Proper Domain”. As we see from the meanings of these words (proper, domain and abode) these Angels “abandoned” their place of habitation. This shows us that they no longer performed the task for which they were assigned to perform.

The Primary Duty of an Angel: Obey the Voice of God

Psalm 103:20-21

20 Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.
21 Bless the LORD, all *you* His hosts, *You* ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

The Secondary Duty of an Angel: Minister to those they have been sent to

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

The Angels that are described by Jude “abandoned” these two duties (among other things). This set-in motion things that eventually led to their fall. On account of them abandoning their

positions and duties, they are now no longer referred to as Angels of God, but as fallen angels (demons) in allegiance to Satan.

This type of tragedy is not related to Angels alone. Jude goes on to point out that there are men who have done similar things.

Jude 11-13

11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving *only* themselves. *They are* clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

v.11) “they have gone the way of Cain (Gen. 4:1-16)”

Cain killed his own brother (Abel) after God rejected his offering while accepting his brothers offering. Cain offered the works of his own hands, an offering that God never asked for. Abel offered the offering that God required. Those who go, “the way of Cain” will be those who seem to think they can give God whatever they want to give Him (or live in any manner they want) and still be accepted by God. They will always have that inner sense that their offering is rejected thus they become angry people. As with Cain, God could visit them and point out the things needing change but will still refuse to change and will be motivated by anger.

“have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit” (Num. 22:1-24:25)”

Balaam was at one time a Prophet that truly heard God. He was hired to curse Israel by one of Israel’s enemies. Even though he could not curse Israel, but only bless, Balaam none the less attempted to curse Israel for money.

There are many ministers who put a price tag on their ministry. There are many that will not come to a church unless they are guaranteed a certain amount. There are many in the body of Christ today that fall into this error. Just like Balaam they will minister for money. This may not seem like a bad thing, but once a price is set that minister becomes an employee of those who are paying him. This takes him off of God’s payroll and puts him on another’s payroll. He then is no longer subject to God, but to the one that is paying him.

“and perished in the rebellion of Korah (Num. 16:1-50)”

Korah was one that led a rebellion against Moses while in the wilderness. Korah was a man that had great authority being one of the leaders among the people. His position wasn’t

enough for him. He wanted to come up to the position that Moses held. In the end he and his family died as well as 14,700 others.

Number 16:49

Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

This is what happens when people become dissatisfied with the position that they hold.

v.12-13) 12 *These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;*
13 *raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*

Spots (Grk. 4694) *spilas*

1) a rock in the sea, ledge, reef

2) metaphorically of men who by their conduct damage others morally, wreck them as it were

Just as "*spots (hidden reefs)*" can bring great and sudden destruction to a ship, these types of people can do the same in a church. They are so destructive because they care only for themselves. They will not look after the welfare of anyone else.

These ones are also equated to, "*clouds without water...; autumn trees without fruit*". Both can bring great disappointment when they cannot supply what is needed. The ones described by Jude are like these. They have the appearance of being able to produce what is needed, but bring only trouble and disappointment, because they cannot produce what they promised to produce.

Often these people are boisterous and will gain the attention of all who are around them. They are very much like, "*wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam...*" Just as the crashing of the waves turn to foam. The boasting attitude of these ones will turn to shame. It won't be long before these are caught in their own deception.

Finally, these ones are like "*wandering stars (shooting stars).*" Just as a star shooting across the sky burns brightly, grabs everyone's attention, then is gone, so are these types of people. They seem to burn brighter than everyone else around them; they grab everyone's attention then they burn out. The burn out usually happens when they are found out for who they truly are. Those around them begin to see that they cannot produce the things they say they can produce and when called on it the truth is revealed about their character and lack of true spirituality.

Conclusion: *Stay close to the Right People*

2 Timothy 2:22

22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Note: The purpose of these studies was to lay a foundation for us to properly, “contend earnestly for the faith...” As Jude points out having the wrong people around us will make it difficult to grow in our faith. Paul tells Timothy, “pursue... faith... with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart.” We will grow exponentially in our faith when we have surrounded ourselves with people of faith. The wrong people will only rob us of our faith.