

Today's Message: JUDE: DEFENDING THE FAITH  
Series: Messianic Letters  
Pastor Gary L. Stump

**Don't we want to be able to defend our faith?**

When our faith is challenged, do we tend to get highly anxious?

How can we do a better job of defending our faith?

Jude writes about this in his small book...

**Written by:** Jude (Yehuda, Jesus' half-brother; "The LORD is Praised")

**Written to:** Messianic believers

**Date Written:** c. 70 AD

**Purpose:** Defending the Faith!

**Key Verse:** *Jude 3 (NLT) Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to **defend the faith** that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.*

**Are you prepared to defend the faith**

*1 Peter 3:15 (NIV84) But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. 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*

God's Grace	God's Judgment
v. 5 rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt	destroyed those who did not remain faithful
v. 6 angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them	God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment
v. 7 don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion	Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment

**False teachers**

*Jude 8 (NLT) In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings.*

**False Teachers are:**

- Like unthinking animals (v. 10)
- Follow the footsteps of Cain (v. 11)
- Like Balaam they deceive people for money (v. 11)
- Like Korah, they perish in their rebellion (v. 11)
- Like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you (v. 12)
- Like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves (v. 12)
- Like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain (v. 12)
- Like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots (v. 12)
- Like wild waves of the sea (v. 13)
- Like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness (v. 13)

v. 14 a quote from Enoch 1:9 = Jude quoted from non-Biblical sources to make his points.

### **Paul did this as well in the context of false teachers:**

*Titus 1:12 (ESV) One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." (Epimenides of Crete)*

### **Jude reminded of all those who warned about false teachers**

*Jude 17–18 (NLT) But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ predicted.<sup>18</sup> They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires.*

### **Moses warned about false teachers**

*Deuteronomy 18:20 (NLT) But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die.'*

### **Jeremiah warned about false teachers**

*Jeremiah 23:16 (NLT) This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says to his people: "Do not listen to these prophets when they prophesy to you, filling you with futile hopes. They are making up everything they say. They do not speak for the LORD!*

### **Jesus warned about false teachers**

*Matthew 7:15 (NLT) "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves."*

### **Paul warned about false teachers**

*2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NLT) For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.<sup>4</sup> They will reject the truth and chase after myths.*

### **Peter warned about false teachers**

*2 Peter 2:1 (NLT) But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.*

### **John warned about false teachers**

*1 John 4:1b, 5 (NLT) For there are many false prophets in the world...<sup>5</sup> Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them.*

## **SEVEN STEPS TO DEFEND THE FAITH:**

### **1) Love God and love others**

*Matthew 22:37–39 (NLT) Jesus replied, "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.<sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*

### **2) Know whom you have believed**

*2 Timothy 1:12b (NLT) I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.*

### **3) Share your Faith Story**

*1 Peter 3:15b (NLT) If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

#### 4) Don't get bogged down in the details

1 Timothy 1:4 (NLT) *Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God.*

#### 5) Look for the real issue

1 Corinthians 2:2 (NLT) *For I decided that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.*

#### 6) Trust the Holy Spirit to work

John 6:44 (NLT) *"For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up."*

#### 7) Share with Gentleness and Respect

1 Peter 3:15b (NIV) *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*

### SO WHAT?

Jude 20–23 (NLT) *But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit,<sup>21</sup> and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.<sup>22</sup> And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.<sup>23</sup> Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.*

### Closing Doxology

Jude 24–25 (NLT) *Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.<sup>25</sup> All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.*

### Let's pray together the Lord's Prayer...(stand)

Matthew 6:9–13 (NLT) *"Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.<sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.<sup>11</sup> Give us today the food we need,<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.<sup>13</sup> And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

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## ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, July 31, 2022

**1. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE**—To make it easier for some, you can scan this QR code in order to complete your Prayer Response Card.



**2. WORKDAY AT NEW BUILDING SATURDAY AT 9AM**—13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (SE corner 131<sup>st</sup> & SR 37). Text Alex Abell with questions or more info 317-416-8027.

**3. ONWARD'S NEW LOCATION ANNOUNCED**—In just 3 weeks Onward Church will be moving to our new facility at 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers (131<sup>st</sup> & SR 37). Our planned move will be August 14, 2022. We will be renting our facility from *Mission Christian Academy* led by Shawn Moore.

**4. NO SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH IN JULY**

**5. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 9-11.** Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana. Save the dates. More info to come.

**6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022.** Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,850 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at [gary@garystump.org](mailto:gary@garystump.org). Vaccine Mandates have been lifted for travelers to Israel.