

## The Faith

**Jude 1:3 HCSB** Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write and exhort you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all.

### I. The Believer's Obligation to the Faith

A. He must **CONTEND** for it (Jude 3).

- **Jude 1:3 HCSB** Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write and exhort you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all.

B. He must **CONTINUE** in it (Acts 14:22).

- **Acts 14:22 HCSB** strengthening the hearts of the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith, and by telling them, "It is necessary to pass through many troubles on our way into the kingdom of God."

C. He must **CONFIRM** himself in it (Colossians 2:7; 1 Corinthians 16:13).

- **Colossians 2:7 HCSB** rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- **1 Corinthians 16:13 HCSB (13)** Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave and strong.

D. He must **CONVEY** it (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:2).

- **Matthew 28:19-20 HCSB** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
- **Romans 1:5 HCSB** We have received grace and apostleship through Him to bring about the obedience of faith among all the nations, on behalf of His name,
- **2 Timothy 2:2 HCSB** And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

E. He must **COUNTENANCE** the brethren who are weak in it (Romans 14:1, 3-4, 21; 1 Corinthians 8:7-9).

- **Romans 14:1 HCSB** Accept anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about doubtful issues.
- **Romans 14:3-4 HCSB** One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat; and one who does not eat must not criticize one who does, because God has accepted him. (4) Who are you to criticize another's household slave? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And stand he will! For the Lord is able to make him stand.
- **Romans 14:21 HCSB** It is a noble thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother stumble.
- **1 Corinthians 8:7-9 HCSB (7)** However, not everyone has this knowledge. In fact, some have been so used to idolatry up until now, that when they eat food offered to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is defiled. (8) Food will not make us acceptable to God. We are not inferior if we don't eat, and we are not better if we do eat. (9) But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak.

## II. The Devil's Opposition to It

A. He seeks to turn away unbelievers from it (Acts 13:6-12).

- **Acts 13:6-12 HCSB** When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. (7) He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and desired to hear God's message. (8) But Elymas, the sorcerer, which is how his name is translated, opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. (9) Then Saul--also called Paul--filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at the sorcerer (10) and said, "You son of the Devil, full of all deceit and all fraud, enemy of all righteousness! Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? (11) Now, look! The Lord's hand is against you: you are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time." Suddenly a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. (12) Then the proconsul, seeing what happened, believed and was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

B. He seeks to mock it (Acts 16:16-18).

- **Acts 16:16-18 HCSB** Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit of prediction and made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. (17) As she followed Paul and us she cried out, "These men are the slaves of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." (18) And she did this for many days. But Paul was greatly aggravated, and turning to the spirit, said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out right away.

C. He seeks to seduce believers ways from it (1 Timothy 4:1).

- **1 Timothy 4:1 HCSB** Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons,

D. He seeks to counterfeit it (2 Corinthians 11:3-4,13-15).

- **2 Corinthians 11:3-4 HCSB** (3) But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted from a complete and pure devotion to Christ. (4) For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it splendidly!
- **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 HCSB** (13) For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. (14) And no wonder! For Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light. (15) So it is no great thing if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their destiny will be according to their works.

E. He seeks to blind men to it (2 Corinthians 4:4).

- **2 Corinthians 4:1 HCSB** Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not give up.