

**“But You!”**

5-22-22

Jude 20 (ESV)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith ~~and~~ praying in the Holy Spirit.

**In the previous verses Jude describes the ungodly and warns us of their evil influence. Now after painting this gruesome picture of the ungodly Jude addresses the believers, the beloved. Jude says two powerful words, “But You!” The believers are nothing like these ungodly. Jude reminds us of why we are different.**

**#1 We keep building ourselves up in our most holy faith. Our faith is described as most holy because it does not come to us through human reasoning but by revelation of God. Our faith is different from all other religions unique in its message and its moral transforming power. This truth of God is revealed in the Scriptures! Through the Scriptures, we build ourselves up in our faith, and have greater discernment to deal with the ungodly.**

**#2 Also we build ourselves up in our faith by praying in the Holy Spirit. All believers have the Holy Spirit and we should pray according to the Spirit’s direction made known to us by HIS inner promptings.**

Romans 8:26 (ESV)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

When we don't know what to pray, the Holy Spirit shows us how to pray as we should. **Spirit-prompted prayer is vital to the Christian life and its development.** This prayer will always be consistent with Scripture. Praying in the Spirit may well include, but is not confined to, exercising the gift of tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (ESV)

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself.

**Jude continues with why we are different.**

Jude 21 (ESV)

Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

**#3 We must continue to maintain and strengthen our relationship with Jesus, “Keeping ourselves in God’s love.” We are to keep our attention fixed on the Love of God and the “mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that brings us to eternal life.” *We should be consumed by the abundant love God has for us. This includes having the joy of Eternal life that begins “now” in our presently enjoyed salvation that will be known in all its fullness when we go to be with Jesus.***

**#4 After confirming our strong faith in Christ, Jude turns to the practical application when approaching the ungodly. This is a question many of us have asked. How do we act toward these people? We may not be sure who these people are. Are they redeemable? What is our responsibility?**

**Jude gives some guidance.**

Jude 22 (ESV)

And have mercy on those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

**We are to be merciful to those who **doubt**.** There are some doubting souls who need our pity. These are those who have fallen under the influence of false teachers but have not yet succumbed to them. It is not too late for them to be recovered by the efforts of faithful believers. But there is another group. These are **much more involved** in ungodly teaching. Therefore, more urgent and vigorous steps need to be taken. As Jude says, **“Snatch them from the fire.”** These people are in dangerous spiritual peril, but rescue from destruction is still possible. Immediate intervention needs to take place to snatch them out of the fire.

**Another group is identified. We also need to show them mercy but mixed with fear.** These are people who have been deeply infected by immoral and corrupt teaching. **Their depravity has made them infectious.** Their very clothing is stained! We need to understand that their infection is so evil that we could also be contaminated. We are to be on guard and so cautious that we hate even their stained clothes.

God’s wondrous grace can bring total cleansing. **Not even the most defiled sinner, is beyond salvation through faith in Christ.** However, we must exercise wisdom. Matthew 18:15-17 tells us how to approach those who sin against us, but also this instruction may be applied to confronting the ungodly.

Matthew 18:15–17 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, **(#1)**between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, **(#2)**take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he refuses to listen to them, **(#3)**tell it to the church **(The Elders! Note: The Elders are responsible at this point)**. And if he refuses to listen even to the church **(The Elders!)**, **(#4)**let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” **(The Elders ask him to leave!)**

1 Corinthians 5:13 (ESV)

“Purge the evil person from among you.”

**In addition to the above, we must consider at what point do we go from sharing to separating from the ungodly? There is a key word to guide us: Influence! The church is full of people who are struggling who need Christ’s healing. However, when the person starts to “influence” others in a corrupting way, they must be removed to protect those in the church.**

**We have responsibility and we have a clear message!**

1 Timothy 1:15 (ESV)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.