

Jude Part 4 – Striving For The Faith – Sep 11, 2026 – Study Guide

Summary

This teaching provides a detailed exposition of the **Epistle of Jude**, focusing on the urgent necessity for believers to **defend the Christian faith** against internal corruption. It warns that **deceptive, ungodly individuals** have infiltrated the church, transforming **divine grace** into an excuse for **immorality and rebellion** against spiritual authority. The text draws parallels to historical figures like **Cain, Balaam, and Korah** to illustrate the severe **judgment and destruction** awaiting those who follow selfish instincts. To counter these threats, the author emphasizes an **imperative command to remember the teachings** of the **prophets and apostles** while actively building one's own spiritual life. Ultimately, the teaching argues that while **God is able** to keep followers from falling, individuals **must remain vigilant and responsible** in their own conduct to stay within His love.

Study Guide: Jude 10–25 — Striving for the Faith

This study guide provides a comprehensive analysis of the concluding section of the Epistle of Jude. It focuses on the identification of ungodly intruders, **the apostolic call to remembrance**, the dual nature of God's ability and the believer's responsibility in perseverance.

Definitions of Key Words

The following terms are essential for understanding the polemic and exhortation found in Jude 10–25.

Term	Definition
Unreasoning Animals	Individuals who operate strictly within the natural, five-senses world. Their knowledge is limited to instinct, lacking true spiritual understanding (Jude 1:10; 2 Peter 2:12).
Way of Cain	A path characterized by pride, the hatred of God, envy of those favored by God, and hatred toward one's brothers or sisters. In a biblical context, such hatred is equated with murder (1 John 3:15).
Error of Balaam	The act of rushing headlong into spiritual or moral error for the sake of financial gain or profit (Jude 1:11).
Rebellion of Korah	A historical reference to those who perish due to their rebellion against divine authority (Jude 1:11).
Hidden Reefs / Stains	Intruders who are disguised as genuine believers. They are "blemishes" at love feasts, carousing without fear and caring only for themselves (Jude 1:12; 2 Peter 2:13).
Doubly Dead	An analogy for those who consistently produce no spiritual fruit regardless of

	the season. They are viewed as trees that are not only barren but uprooted, signifying their final judgment (Jude 1:12).
Ungodly	A term used repeatedly (four times in Jude 1:15) to describe the deeds, ways, and speech of those who live in opposition to God. It characterizes grumblers, faultfinders, and those following their own prideful lusts.
Ought (Imperative)	In the Greek text of Jude 1:17, this word is in the imperative mood . It is not an optional suggestion but a direct, urgent command or exhortation .
Worldly-Minded / Devoid of Spirit	Those who cause divisions within the assembly. They follow natural instincts and ungodly desires rather than the leading of the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:19).
Conditional Perseverance	The theological concept that while God is "able to keep you from stumbling," the realization of this protection is contingent upon the believer's <u>response of faith and obedience</u> (Jude 1:24).

I. Expansion of Key Points

1. The Character and Destruction of False Teachers (Jude 1:10–13)

Jude describes the ungodly intruders as those who "revile the things which they do not understand." Their knowledge is limited to the natural realm, making them like **unreasoning animals (2 Peter 2:12)**. This lack of spiritual discernment leads to the "wide road of destruction."

- **Historical Prototypes:** Jude identifies three specific patterns of rebellion:
 - **The Way of Cain:** Rooted in envy and hatred. **1 John 3:15** clarifies that hating a brother is equivalent to murder.
 - **The Error of Balaam:** Driven by the pursuit of profit.
 - **The Rebellion of Korah:** Defined by open defiance of God's assigned authority and order, in the leadership of Moses and Aaron.
- **Metaphors of Barrenness:** These individuals are "clouds without water" and "wells without water" (**2 Peter 2:17**). They appear to offer spiritual nourishment but are empty. As "autumn trees without fruit," they are "doubly dead" and destined to be uprooted.

2. The Prophecy of Enoch and the Nature of Ungodliness (Jude 1:14–16)

Jude cites Enoch, who prophesied impending judgment. The text emphasizes the word "all" with distinction:

- **Judgment on All:** God will execute judgment upon everyone **without exception**.
- **Conviction of the Ungodly:** God will convict the ungodly for their ungodly deeds, ungodly ways, and harsh words spoken against Him. This is "all" **with distinction**.
- **Specific Traits:** The ungodly are identified as grumblers and faultfinders. They use flattery to gain personal advantage and follow their own arrogant pride.

3. The Apostolic Call to Remembrance (Jude 1:17–19)

Believers are commanded—as an imperative "ought"—to remember the words of the apostles.

- **Points of Reference:** Truth is defined by the words of **the holy prophets, the commandments of the Lord and Savior, and the teachings of the apostles (2 Peter 3:1–3)**.
- **Warning of Mockers:** The apostles foretold that "mockers" would appear in the last time, following ungodly lusts and causing divisions.
- **Spirit vs. Flesh:** These dividers are "worldly-minded" and "devoid of the Spirit," acting only on natural prideful instincts.

4. The Believer's Responsibility (Jude 1:20–23)

In contrast to the intruders, the "beloved" have specific duties. They **must not forget** the exhortations addressed to them as sons (**Hebrews 12:4–5**).

- **Proactive Faith:** Believers must build themselves up in the "most holy faith" and "pray in the Holy Spirit."
- **Keeping Oneself:** The command is to "keep yourselves in the love of God." This implies an active effort to remain within His favour while waiting for eternal life.
- **Ministry to Others:** This includes showing mercy to those who doubt, "snatching others from the fire," and maintaining a holy fear of the "garment polluted by the flesh."

5. God's Ability and the Necessity of Response (Jude 1:24–25)

Jude concludes with a final doxology-occlusion: "Him who is able to keep you from stumbling."

- **God's Sovereignty:** God is able to present the believer blameless with great joy. **However, "able" does not constitute an unconditional guarantee.**
- **The Requirement of Faith:** Just as Jesus the Son asked the blind men if they believed he was **able** to heal them before acting (**Matthew 9:27–29**), **God's ability often requires a human response.**
- **The Fruit of Faith:** **James 2:14–17** notes that faith without works is dead. True faith manifests in actions, such as meeting the physical needs of brothers and sisters.
- **Giving and Grace:** God is "able to make all grace abound" specifically in the context of cheerful, bountiful financial giving to the assembly (**2 Corinthians 9:6–8**). If the condition of giving is not met, the promised result of abounding grace is not expected to appear.

II. Comprehension and Reflection Questions

1. **Animal Instinct vs. Spiritual Knowledge:** According to Jude 1:10 and 2 Peter 2:12, why are false teachers compared to "unreasoning animals"? What is the end result of their "instinctive" knowledge?
2. **The Way of Cain:** How does 1 John 3:15 expand upon the "way of Cain"? In what ways can "hatred toward a brother" manifest in a modern church setting?
3. **The Imperative of Memory:** Why does Jude use the word "ought" (imperative mood) regarding the words of the apostles? What happens when believers "forget" (referencing Hebrews 12:5)?

4. **The Definition of Truth:** Based on 2 Peter 3:1–2, what are the three specific points of reference a believer should use to assess doctrinal truth?
5. **Analyzing "He is Able":** Does Jude 1:24 mean that a believer can never stumble? How do the examples of King David or the Apostle Peter clarify this?
6. **Faith and Action:** Using James 2:14–17 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, explain the connection between God's ability to provide and the believer's responsibility to give.

III. Answer Key

1. **Animal Instinct vs. Spiritual Knowledge:** They are compared to animals because they rely solely on natural senses and instincts rather than true spiritual understanding. The end result of this erroneous false knowledge is destruction.
2. **The Way of Cain:** 1 John 3:15 equates hatred with murder. In a modern setting, this can manifest as envy, pride, or seeking to diminish a brother or sister for one's own advantage.
3. **The Imperative of Memory: "Ought" is a direct command. It is not optional.** Forgetting leads to a lack of discipline and a failure to recognize the Lord's reproof, as seen in Hebrews 12:5.
4. **The Definition of Truth:** (1) The words of the holy prophets; (2) The commandments of the Lord and Savior; (3) The words spoken by the apostles.
5. **Analyzing "He is Able":** No. It is a conditional guarantee. While God has the power (ability) to keep one from stumbling, great men like David and Peter still stumbled because God's ability does not override human will or necessitate an unconditional guarantee.
6. **Faith and Action:** God is able to make grace abound, but the context of 2 Corinthians 9 shows this is linked to bountiful giving. James 2 shows that faith without the "work" of taking care of a brother's physical needs is dead. God's "ability" is often activated by the believer's "action."

IV. Scripture Index

- **Jude 1:1–25** (Primary Text)
- **Matthew 9:27–29** (Healing according to faith/God's ability)
- **1 Corinthians 11** (Disguises of false teachers)
- **2 Corinthians 9:6–8** (Bountiful giving and God's ability to provide)
- **Hebrews 12:4–5** (Forgetting the exhortation/discipline)
- **James 2:14–17** (Faith without works is dead)
- **1 John 3:15** (Hatred as murder)
- **2 Peter 2:12** (Unreasoning animals/creatures of instinct)
- **2 Peter 2:13** (Stains and blemishes)
- **2 Peter 2:17** (Springs/wells without water)
- **2 Peter 3:1–3** (Remembering the prophets, Lord, and apostles; mockers in the last days)

V. Exhortations and Practical Application

As the study of Jude concludes, we are urged to move beyond passive hearing to active "striving for the faith."

- **Maintain Vigilance:** Deceit does not typically come from "outside systems" but from religious systems **within the assembly**. Be cautious about what you read and listen to; ensure it aligns with the "whole scope of scripture."
- **Prioritize the Assembly:** Practical faith requires prioritizing the needs of those within your own assembly. As noted in the analysis of James 2, a "pat on the back" is no substitute for meeting the physical needs of a brother or sister.
- **Practice Gratefulness:** The ungodly are characterized by grumbling. Combat this trait by intentionally giving thanks and glory to God daily, even in the midst of suffering.
- **Active Perseverance:** Do not presume that grace provides a license for passivity. You must "build yourself up," "pray in the spirit," and "keep yourself in God's love." God is able to keep you, **but you must choose to walk in His righteous way.**
- **Embrace the Narrow Path:** Recognizing that suffering and persecution are signs of being on the correct, narrow path. Remain vigilant, keep the words of the apostles at the forefront of your mind, and do not forget the foundations of the faith.

STRIVE FOR THE FAITH: THE CALL OF JUDE

Believers must actively contend for the faith while relying on God's power.

