

Jude Part 2 – Striving For The Faith – Aug 30, 2026 – Study Guide

Summary

This teaching series on the **Book of Jude** emphasizes the severe and often overlooked danger of **false teachers** infiltrating the church from within. The speaker argues that these deceptive individuals operate **secretly** and are driven by **pride** and financial gain, much like the biblical figures of **Cain, Balaam, and Korah**. By examining historical examples of **divine judgment** upon rebellious angels and the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah, the text warns that even those close to God are not exempt from punishment. Listeners are urged to **strive for the faith** by remaining vigilant, obedient to scripture, and aware of the high cost of spiritual deception. Ultimately, the text serves as a **sobering reminder** to prioritize truth over the attractive but misleading doctrines of modern religious movements.

Study Guide: Strive for the Faith – The Hidden Dangers of Pride

I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Strive:** A term preferred over "contend" to describe the vigorous, purposeful effort required of believers to maintain the integrity of the faith against deceitful infiltration.
- **Unnoticed:** The strategic, secretive manner in which false teachers enter the assembly without announcing their true intentions or arrival.
- **Pride:** The root of all sin and the primary motivator for disobedience; the attitude that one knows better than God or His Word.
- **Complacency:** A state of self-satisfaction or lack of vigilance, often resulting from false doctrines like the misuse of "imputed righteousness" a term not used in scripture.
- **Apostasy:** The act of God's own people or created beings living in total disobedience and turning away from the truth.
- **Nephilim:** Contextually defined in the source as "the fallen ones," referring to the descendants of the line of Seth intermarrying with the line of Cain, rather than angelic beings.
- **Darkness:** Translated from a Greek word used only five times in the New Testament, meaning "utter deepest darkness".

II. Expansion of Key Points

1. The Centrality of the Warning: The apostles of Jesus Christ placed the warning against **false teachers** at the "front and center" of their ministries. Leaders today are often distracted by financial or growth goals, giving little attention to the deceit within the church. However, the book of Jude emphasizes that being "tuned into Christ" and the "scriptures rightly divided" is essential to avoid the dramatic negative effects of deception in this life and the life to come.

- *References:* Jude; 2 Peter.

2. The Tactics of the Infiltrators: False teachers do not announce their arrival; they enter “**unnoticed**” through **secretive, seducing, and hidden** methods. Their presence is not outside the body of Christ but “within the assemblies”. They often use their **dreams** to defile the flesh and reject authority, a practice seen in modern times through bestsellers about trips to heaven.

- *References:* Jude 4, 8, 12.

3. The Three-Fold Example of Divine Judgment: Jude provides three chilling historical examples to prove that no one is exempt from God’s judgment:

- **Israel:** Even after being saved out of Egypt, God subsequently **destroyed those who did not believe**.
- **Angelic Beings:** Angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper abode and are kept in eternal bonds and darkness.
- **Sodom and Gomorrah:** These cities serve as an example of undergoing the punishment of **eternal fire** due to gross immorality and going after strange flesh.
- *References:* Jude 5, 6, 7.

4. The Root of Apostasy: Pride is the catalyst for catastrophic judgment. It manifests when individuals feel they do not need to limit themselves to what God has spoken, essentially putting themselves above God. This pride often surfaces in **complacency**, fuelled by the lie that “grace” bestows righteousness without requiring CHANGE the holiness and godliness God requires.

- *References:* Romans 10:9-10 (misused context); Titus (referenced).

5. The Case of Balaam and Financial Motivation: Balaam is highlighted as a “mad gentile prophet” who was motivated by “the wages of unrighteousness”. His error was not just personal; his **false counsel** led to the death of an estimated 90,000 to 130,000 people. This serves as a warning that false teachers are often motivated by the “financial gain” and social standing.

- *References:* 2 Peter 2:15-16; Numbers 31:7-8, 16; Revelation 2:12-17.

6. Jesus’ Ultimate Warning: When asked about the signs of the end of the age, Jesus’ first and most urgent warning was: “**See to it that no one misleads you**”. He emphasized that “**many**” would be misled by false prophets and that the love of most would grow cold because of increased lawlessness (pride).

- *References:* Matthew 24:3-14.

III. Study Questions

1. Why did the speaker change the series title from “Contend for the Faith” to “Strive for the Faith”?
2. According to the transcript, how do false teachers typically enter a church assembly?
3. What are the three specific examples Jude uses to show that God’s own people and angelic beings are not exempt from judgment?

4. In the context of the "fallen angels," what does the speaker identify as the specific prideful attitude they displayed?
 5. How does the speaker define the Nephilim based on the "Hebrew series" referenced?
 6. What was the primary motivation for Balaam's actions according to 2 Peter and the speaker's commentary?
 7. What was Jesus' first response to the disciples' question about the end of the age in Matthew 24?
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IV. Answer Key

1. The term "strive" was felt to communicate the effort required better than "contend".
 2. They enter "**unnoticed**", being secretive, seducing, and hidden.
 3. The Israelites saved from Egypt, the angels who left their domain, and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 4. The attitude of: "I don't need to limit myself to what You, God, have determined for me; I can do whatever I like".
 5. They were the descendants of Seth (sons of God) intermarrying with the descendants of Cain (daughters of men); they were "men of renown," not angels.
 6. Greed or "the wages of unrighteousness" (money).
 7. "See to it that no one misleads you".
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V. Biblical References in the Sources

- **Jude:** Verses 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18
 - **2 Peter:** 2:15-16; General parallels to Jude
 - **Matthew:** 24:3-14
 - **Romans:** 10:9-10
 - **Numbers:** 31:7-8, 10, 16
 - **Revelation:** 2:12-17
 - **Genesis:** 6:4 (context of Nephilim)
 - **Hebrews:** General reference regarding the word for "darkness"
 - **Titus:** Mentioned as a future study
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VI. Exhortations

- **Stay Vigilant:** Do not be blasé about the warnings in Scripture. Recognize that identifying and stopping false teachers is a significant demand throughout both the Hebrew and Greek scriptures.
- **Examine Your Heart for Pride:** Assess where pride might be leading to complacency in your own life. Remember that disobedience to the text of Scripture is a form of putting yourself above God.

- **Prioritize Truth Over Comfort:** Many embrace false doctrines because they are "easier" and do not require repentance-CHANGE. Strive instead for the "narrow path" of obedience, which requires "striving".
- **Be Mindful of Influence:** Be careful about what you listen to, read, and believe, as false teaching has a "knock-on effect" that can lead to spiritual destruction-the "wide path".
- **Endure to the End:** Following the "gospel of the earthly kingdom" may involve suffering or persecution, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Strive for the Faith: Warning Against the Hidden



PRIDEFUL DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO CATASTROPHIC JUDGMENT

Regardless of one's status or past redemption.



FALSE TEACHERS ENTER UNNOTICED

Do not announce themselves; secretive, seducing, hidden among the faithful.



PRIDE IS THE ROOT OF APOSTASY

Sin equals pride—the attitude: "I don't need to limit myself to what God has determined."



17 OF 25 VERSES PARALLEL PETER

Jude and 2 Peter provide a consistent, urgent warning; dangers are present and real.



BEWARE THE WAY OF THE FALLEN

Avoid the way of Cain (murder), the error of Balaam (greed), and the rebellion of Korah (rejecting authority).



STRIVE FOR THE FAITH AND ENDURE

Must be tuned into Christ and scriptures to avoid being misled onto the path of destruction.