

POWER HOUR

3/9/2025

Lesson Text:
Jude 1:17-25

Background Scripture:
John 15:9-17

Devotional Reading:
1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Peter 3:1-3

“BUILD UP YOUR FAITH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: ...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. *Jude 1:21 NLT*

Time: about A.D. 70

Place: Unknown

Jude 1:17-25 NLT

17 But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ predicted. 18 They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. 19 These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God's Spirit in them. 20 But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, 21 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. 22 And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. 23 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. 24 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. 25 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.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever considered that when we go through hard times, we usually think about ourselves? How often do we think instead about praising God? Praising God is a way to recognize the power of God in our lives. It reminds us that we have a wonderful God who is far bigger than our problems and difficult situations. This week we learn that

when we praise God, we are turning our thoughts from ourselves to the One in whom we believe. He can handle any situation in our lives. We turn from our helplessness to His strength, placing us in a very different position. In our lesson we explore the power of praise and what it can do to transform our lives. It helps us remain faithful to Him.

1. Stay faithful in times of trouble (Jude 1:17-19).

Jude was likely one of Jesus' half-brothers and therefore was closely associated with Him. In this letter he called the believers to stand firm in times of division and false teaching. He encouraged the faithful to remember what the apostles had taught them. By the time this letter was written, some of the apostles had already been martyred.

Scoffers would arise, and their only goal would be to enjoy life in every evil way possible. Scoffers do not live by God's laws but follow their evil desires without considering the fear of God. In some ways, this describes our times. The mention of God has been taken out of many of our schools and much of our public life, making room for the promotion of godlessness. We can praise God because He is strong enough to help us stand and remain true to Him.

2. Live lives based on a solid foundation (Jude 1:20-23).

We can praise God because He has given us the solid foundation of the Word and the gospel of Jesus. Jude calls us to build on that foundation. We are challenged to pray according to the promptings of God's Holy Spirit within us. We are to live our lives in anticipation of the day when we will be ushered into His fullness. Our lives are to be invested in those who need to hear the good news. We are to show mercy to them, just as Jesus showed mercy to us.

Jude closes this section by stating two important facts. First, we are to be gentle with those who do not have as strong a faith as we do. Second, we are to help rescue others from judgment. We must be careful, however, when we seek to save others from falling away, that we keep ourselves from falling into the same trap. We are to rely on Jesus. We can praise our Lord by bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

3. Praising Jesus has the power to build us up (Jude 1:24-25).

Praise recognizes that our God is greater and more powerful than we are. In praising Him, we attribute to Him what He deserves. He deserves our praise. God's people are

called to praise Him for His power and His majesty. Jude particularly points out that it is God who keeps us from falling.

Our ultimate goal is to stand in God's presence full of joy and free of sin. Believers will one day be completely free from sin, and already Jesus has clothed us with the robe of His righteousness. We recognize this truth when we attribute all glory, majesty, power, and authority to our Lord Jesus because He alone deserves our praise.

POINTS TO PONDER

Remembering the words of Christ's apostles is key to the Christian life (Jude 1:17).

We should not be surprised by the increasing mockery of our faith, for evil people always seek to justify their evil ways (vss. 18-19).

A life blessed by God is built on faith, prayer, and the Holy Spirit (vss. 20-21).

The weak in faith may present spiritual dangers to those who minister to them (vss. 22-23).

God glorifies Himself by preserving His own unto eternal life (vs. 24).

The purpose of life is to glorify God (vs. 25).

CONCLUSION

God is the Creator of physical and spiritual life. His stamp upon the life He gives to us means that from conception to birth, from birth to death, life is eternally valuable. That is why God sent His Son to provide redemption for all who accept Him as Savior. Regardless, there are mockers of that life. I remember being part of a life chain some time ago. We stood along a heavily traveled street in a midwestern city holding up different signs promoting God as the Author of life. As people drove by, some honked their horns or waved in approval. Some were not so inclined. A few even threw eggs at us—thankfully hitting only the signs. There are mockers. May we be promoters of God's life, reaching out with Christ's love to those who mock.

QUESTION(S)

1. To what subject did Jude devote the majority of his epistle?
2. Why should Jude's readers not have been surprised by impostors in their churches?
3. What characteristics marked the impostors of Jude's day?
4. On what foundation can believers build a solid spiritual life?
5. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit?

6. How can an emphasis on the return of Christ aid us in times of spiritual turmoil?
7. What three groups did Jude single out as being in spiritual peril?
8. How should we seek to rescue those who are going astray?
9. What will be the condition of believers when they finally stand before God?
10. What attributes of God did Jude emphasize in his doxology?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is ***"Jesus Is Coming"***

Lesson Text: **2 Peter 3:3-15a**

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