

Five MUSTS of Faith

Focal Jude 1-3

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org



FOCAL Read Responsively Jude 1-3 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. {2} Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. {3} **Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

Jude was one of the step brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born of Mary while she was yet a virgin, born by the supernatural power of God the Holy Spirit. Once Mary had Jesus in Bethlehem she did not remain childless, for Joseph loved Mary, and had many more children by her. The Scripture says that the people of Nazareth knew the family of Jesus. They said:

Matthew 13:55-56 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? {56} And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

The people of Nazareth were astonished at the wisdom of Christ because they saw Him as no more than a carpenter's son. The Bible says:

John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

He came unto His own, but they would not receive Him (John 1:11). Jude and James - both step brothers to Christ - would later come to believe in Him. Now I

want you to notice something.

You would think that a man who was the *step brother to Christ* would call on that relationship when writing to others.

I have heard evangelists and preachers, guests in our pulpit here at Rock Hill, talk about being "friends of Adrian Rogers" or "acquaintances of R.G. Lee". I would do the same thing if I had been personally tutored by these great men. Yet Jude - the stepbrother to Jesus - opens his letter by saying:

FOCAL Jude 1 **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,**

He does not point out his relationship to Christ *in the flesh*, but he looks to a higher relationship. Perhaps Jude was thinking of the time when he and his family came to see Jesus. They expected to receive a *special consideration* because of their fleshly relationship with the Master. What happened?

Luke 8:20-21 And it was told {Jesus} by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. {21} And he answered and said unto them, **My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.**

Jesus said "My family is not the unbelieving brothers of the flesh that are standing outside the door. My family is those who *hear the Word of God* and who do

what they hear."

Dear friends, I fear that many of our Churches today are flooded with people who have never had a supernatural encounter with the Living God. I fear that many of the ledgers and roll books are stuffed with people who have knowledge of the holy, but who have never met the Holy One face to face in faith. A blind man is not blessed by more light. You can make a room as bright as possible but the blind still cannot see, for the blind do not need LIGHT but they need SIGHT. A deaf man is not blessed nor impressed by sound. Turn up the volume, and to the deaf man nothing is still what he hears. He does not need sound, but HEARING.

Though Jude was blood kin to Jesus, if he had never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation then he would have died in his sins - and went to a devil's hell! This is why Jude said:

FOCAL Jude 1 to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.

The "saved" are "**them that are sanctified - set apart - by God the Father**". A Christian is *distinctly different* from the non-Christian. We are called "**peculiar people**" (1 Peter 2:9).

Christians are not only **peculiar**, but they are **preserved**. This is what Jude says, that we are "**preserved in Jesus Christ**". The world and all that is in it is decaying, but we are *preserved* - not because

we are good but because God is Good and He is in us.

Jude also said of the believer that we are "**called**". God saved you for a specific purpose. You were not saved to sit, but to serve. As Jude ends his introduction he states that

FOCAL Jude 3 it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude says that we are to **earnestly contend** (**επαγωνιζομαι** Pronounced *ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ah-ee*) for the **faith once delivered unto the saints**. This word is used only here in the New Testament writings and it refers to the *intense struggle of two athletes, each determined to beat the other*. We who are Christians are not to allow the Biblical truths of our faith to be absorbed and cast away by a liberal culture. We are to *struggle* in battle against the world and against worldliness. Salvation is all of grace. We are saved by faith in Christ, but once saved our faith begins to mature and exhibit itself by Christ like works.

There are five MUSTS to the Christian faith. These MUSTS are seen in our Jude passage, but are also clearly stated in the Gospel of John.

You MUST be born again (John 3:3, 7)
The Son of Man MUST be lifted up (John 3:14)
Christ MUST increase, but I MUST decrease (John

3:30)

He MUST needs go through Samaria (John 4:4)
They that worship God MUST worship Him in Spirit
and in truth (John 4:24)

This is "**the faith once delivered to the Saints**", and this is the faith that we MUST stand for.

1. You MUST Be Born Again

Jesus Christ had not been ministering very long on this earth. He had been to Cana at the invitation of His mother, and had turned water into wine. Jesus had also went into the Temple and - using discarded ropes that He found on the ground - He chased the moneychangers and sellers of sacrifices out of the Temple. Jesus had done several miracles, and was already infuriating the Pharisees.

There was one Pharisee by the name of **Nicodemus** who was intrigued by Jesus. He quietly followed Jesus, watching what He did. One night Nicodemus came to Jesus and - with flattery - said "**You must be from God, Jesus, because of all the miracles that we've seen you do.**" Jesus ignored Nicodemus and said:

John 3:3 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

What does it mean to be "born AGAIN"?

This is the first MUST of the Christian faith: **You MUST be born again**. Jesus chose His terminology very carefully. When a person is born into this life, he has absolutely no choice in the matter. Two people - one male and one female - come together in an act of love. Through this act of love that which was lifeless (the egg) becomes life (the zygote). The Zygote - about the size of the period at the end of this sentence - grows into a young child who is eventually delivered from the mother and into this world. If the parents were rich the child will be rich. If the parents were poor the child will be poor. The child will naturally inherit certain physical characteristics from both mother and father - and the child has absolutely no contribution to his own birth.

Jesus told Nicodemus, a wise man, a Rabbi, a well respected teacher and Pharisee that "**you MUST be born AGAIN**". The first birth, the physical birth, brings us into the family of man. But there is another birth that even Nicodemus had to have if he expected to "**see the Kingdom of God**". There had to be another birth.

John 3:6-7 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. {7} Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye MUST be born again.

There MUST be a second birth. Every Christian is a person who has been born TWICE. He has been born *physically*, but he has also been born *spiritually*.

No one can get into Heaven who has not been **born of**

the Spirit. The Spirit of God has to come to a person and - through a supernatural operation - give you life, *spiritual life*. The Christian is *changed* by the operation of God. A Christian is not a self made person. Christianity is not a "do it yourself" or DIY operation. A Christian is not even someone who has *physical attachment or relationship* with Jesus Christ through a common Mother, as both **Jude and James** had. A Christian is a person who has met God face to face, and who, like Pastor **Joseph Alleine** said while under conviction:

"O Lord God, I am lost, and if Thou dost not find out some new way, I shall never be saved. O Lord, have mercy!"

ILLUSTRATE A Christian is someone who realizes that he is a sinner, lost and undone, and unable of his own ability or heritage to make himself saved. He is the **blind man** stumbling down the street crying, "**Thou Son of David, have mercy on me**". He is the **leper** shouting between the "uncleans" of the law "**Oh Master, if You would, You could make me whole**". The Christian is the **deaf man** stuttering, the **woman with the issue of blood bleeding, the cripple crawling**. The Christian was at one time the **fornicator**, the **idolaters**, the **adulterer**, the **transgendered** and **effeminate**, the **homosexual** and **lesbian**, the **thief**, the **covetous**, the **drunkard** and **drug abusing**, the **party animal**, and the **extortioner**. Someone once told me "I can't the help the way I am, because I was born this way". I won't argue that point with you. You may have been born that way. The sin of Adam - like a twisted gene - runs through the

race of mankind. You may have been born that way. If so - and I don't doubt you -

What is the solution to the plea, "I was born this way"? You must be born AGAIN!

You must be born again!

That list of sins I just gave you came from **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**. This list was *preceded* with the words "**Do you not know that the UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT inherit the Kingdom of God?**" You cannot see the Kingdom of God if you're not born again, and you certainly cannot inherit in the Kingdom of God if you're not born again. After listing these sins the Apostle said:

1 Corinthians 6:11 ... And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Blessed be the name of God for the New Birth! You MUST be born again!

Look further in Jude's text. He said:

CONTEXT Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

People love to come into the Church and say "once saved, you can do as you please". This is a lie from hell! When the baby is born into this world the umbilical cord is cut. It moves from one environment to another. When you are *born again* you are cut loose from this world. You are changed, and changing. Those who are born again are not born so that they can continue to wallow in the womb of this world, but those that are born again are **sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus**. We are changed, and we are born

John 1:13 not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, but of God.

ILLUSTRATE Those who are born again are changed creatures, and are changing - day by day - to be like unto the sons of God! Among the saved - as **F.B. Meyer** once said, there is **community of nature** - every believer in the Church is *born* into the family of God. There is **community of fellowship**, that is, every believer in the Church has an *ongoing relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit*. And finally, there is a **community of possession**. Every believer is equally called to be sons of God, and are called to be heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ!

2. Jesus MUST Be Lifted Up

As Jude addressed the Church in his opening words he said:

FOCAL Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ,

and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.

By what *right* is a person **born again**? Can God just wave His hand and say, "I bestow upon you new birth?"

No, it cannot be that simple. You see,

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

When God told Adam in the Garden of Eden "**the day you eat of the forbidden fruit you shall surely die**" (**Genesis 2:17**), God's Word was God's promise. Adam ate of that which was forbidden, and in so doing brought death on all of humanity. How can that which is dead be made alive? **You must be born again!** How can God offer those who are dead in trespasses and sins new life? **He must take upon Himself our sins.**

Jesus Christ had to be **born into this life** to make payment for our sins. Jesus told Nicodemus:

John 3:14-16 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: {15} That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. {16} For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus **MUST** be lifted up. He **MUST** be lifted up because *every person is a sinner*.

If there were some people who were not sinners, but who were inherently righteous, then the Lord would not have needed to be lifted up on Calvary. Jesus **MUST** be nailed to that tree. The world looks at sin and says, "what does it matter? We can do as we please, and who is to say otherwise?" Yes, you may do as you please - but you cannot enter God's Kingdom that way. The only way you can enter God's Kingdom is by pleasing God. Listen Beloved: apart from God we cannot please God. In our flesh we cannot please God. We are all natural born sinners. We cannot obey the Law of God.

God must do a work in us. But before He can do any work, sin must be paid for. The sin of Adam must be covered. Neither Adam nor the sons of Adam can cover their sin, for we are all guilty.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The guilty cannot take the place of the guilty. A murderer cannot go to the judge and say "let me stand in the place of another murderer and give my life in his stead". That's foolish! It cannot be done. God will not let filth pay for filth. Jesus Christ **MUST** be lifted up. It is only of Jesus that the Baptist said:

John 1:29 ... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

God came to Mary, a virgin, and used her to take on human flesh. God grew up in the midst of a carpenter's family. God the Son, the heir of all things, stooped to take our fallen nature on Himself. Someone once said that "Jesus laid aside His crown, and it became the Milky Way. He laid aside His robes, and they became the sunset clouds. He came upon a virgin, and was laid low in a manger. He lived a perfect and sinless life for one reason, and one reason only to be lifted up between Heaven and Hell and to bear our sins on the bloody stake of Calvary."

The Christian stands confidently before God because we can say that we all have a share in Calvary. Jesus Christ was lifted up. He was not lifted up for His sins, but for ours.

1 Peter 2:22-24 {Jesus} did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: {23} Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: {24} Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

He paid for my sins. He was lifted up for me. He died on Calvary between two thieves. Thieves try to steal His glory today. The thief of LEGALISM creeps into the

Church and tries to steal Christ's glory by saying "you must contribute to your salvation, else you will not be saved". What did Jude say?

FOCAL Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.

You who are saved are set apart - sanctified - BY God the Father. Why? Because you're great people? No, but because Jesus Christ was lifted up. He died for your sins. You are PRESERVED in your faith. Is that because you are sweet and kind people? Absolutely not! It is because Jesus Christ was lifted up. He willingly went to Calvary and died for your sins. He is the means of your salvation.

Psalms 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

The thief of LEGALISM would rob God of His glory by making salvation of us and not of Christ. But the thief of LIBERALISM comes whispering that Christ died to give you entrance to Heaven - even though you still live as if you are a twofold child of hell!

In Moses' day when the people looked upon that which was lifted up they passed from death and unto life. The same thing is true of the Christian. When you look upon Jesus - high and lifted up on Calvary - then God does a

work in your life. You are different. John said:

1 John 3:13-14 **Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. {14} We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.**

The Christian **loves his brothers in the faith but hates the sin of the world.** Jude even addresses this later in the text. He says:

CONTEXT **Jude 18 ... they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. {19} These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.**

Those who are **born again by faith in Christ** are changed creatures. They are no longer hateful and worldlings, but they are children of God. The Lord is working in them. They are separated from the evil around them, and are distinctly different. They **do not walk after their own ungodly lusts**, but walk and talk following the Spirit of God Who indwells them. We may sin,

Romans 6:5-7 **For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: {6} Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. {7} For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

but we who believe are no longer slaves to sin, but to

Christ. This is why Jude started his letter by saying:

FOCAL **Jude 1** **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ**

The word "servant" (**δουλος pronounced doo'-los**) is literally "slave". We who are God's are the WILLING SLAVES of Jesus Christ. He laid down His life for us, so we lay down our lives for Him. He is our LORD and Savior, and will be forever more. Your life has changed. This is why the Bible says:

Colossians 3:1-8 **If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. {2} Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. {3} For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. {4} When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. {5} Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: {6} For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: {7} In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. {8} But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.**

Sheep follow the Shepherd. He gave Himself for us, so we who are His give ourselves to Him!

3. The MUST Of Decreasing Self

FOCAL Jude 1 Jude, **THE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST**, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, **AND CALLED**.

The next MUST of our faith is the MUST of decreasing self. You became a Christian by willingly surrendering your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. If God is going to use you - and He left you on this earth to use you - then you must DECREASE and He must INCREASE. John the Baptist, the greatest Prophet who ever lived, understood this principle. The Pharisees - forever trying to get people turn turn against Christ - came to John the Baptist while he was baptizing people in the Jordan. They said,

John 3:26 ... Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

Did you notice how they flattered John before tempting him? They said, RABBI - "Oh Great Teacher" - "HE THAT WAS WITH THEE" (you know, that fellow who's name we won't mention) is baptizing more people than you are. Don't you want to do something about that?" John didn't bat an eye. He replied:

John 3:27-30 ... A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. {28} Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. {29} He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy

therefore is fulfilled. {30} He must increase, but I must decrease.

If all Christians would understand this great principle we could have America evangelized and our society recovered from evil.

As a pastor I often speak with other pastors and evangelists who tell me that the greatest problem with the Church in America is *power struggles*.

An evangelist recently told me that he had been in many crippled Churches where one or two families were trying to run the show, or else where the Deacons took over and ran things with an iron fist. In a few Churches the pastor exercised undue authority, and in so doing hurt the work of God.

Dear friends, we cannot do the work of God in our own power nor in our own knowledge. John the Baptist understood this. **Christ MUST increase, and I MUST decrease**. It cannot be about me, but it must be about Him. He is our Lord, and we are His Redeemed Children. We must do as He says.

Christ MUST increase and I MUST decrease because this is the GOAL of the Christian faith. The Bible says that:

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. {29} For

whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Good Christians and Baptists are always arguing over this Doctrine of Predestination. Well, here it is in a nutshell! If you are a Christian then **you are predestined to be CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON.** You are predestined to be like Jesus! Everything that happens to you happens with a purpose. This is why **we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.** Once you were saved - if you are saved - God started working in you. **He is the Potter, and you are the Clay.** Every trial, every tribulation, every thing that occurs comes to shape you and mold you and make you like Jesus! Paul went on to say:

Romans 8:30-33 Moreover whom {God} did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. {31} What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? {32} He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? {33} Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

You know what that text tells me? **That which God started, He will finish.** If you are God's child by faith in Christ then God will keep working in you until you are a usable Christ-like creature.

Christ MUST increase and I MUST decrease. My ego has to decrease. My reliance upon myself must decrease. My PRIDE - that damnable PRIDE - must decrease.

If you will be used of God you must learn to follow God. When I was in the military we had a saying:

Lead, Follow, or Get out of the way!

That's a good saying. Lead in putting away self and putting away sin. Follow God as Christ followed God. Seek greater grace. The Scripture says:

Galatians 5:24-26 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. {26} Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

We live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. We were born into this heavenly life by faith, let us keep on walking by faith. How does Jude put it?

CONTEXT Jude 20-21 **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, {21} Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.**

We **build up OURSELVES** on our most **HOLY** faith. We who believe squash our evil nature and pursue God and the things of God. We do good. We realize we are **set apart, holy,** and we **keep ourselves in the love of**

God. We Do the things that make for love, and reject the things that God rejects.

In short, we act as a divine family. We who are saved appeal to His power in all things.

One of the greatest examples I have read of was in the life of **an unnamed preacher (from the Colportage Library 145, F.B. Meyer)** who was teaching a Sunday School class. One Sunday when he was teaching the class the children were quite restless. The old man said:

"I was on the point of losing my temper, but was led to look up, and I saw the Savior standing there, so calm and sweet and strong that I felt led to say, 'Lord, give me Your patience for mine is giving out'. At once He seemed to drop into my own heart a lump of His patience, and I could have stood twice as many children and twice as much inattention without losing myself. From that moment I have followed the same method. When tempted to pride I have said, 'Your humility, Lord'. In temptations to quick temper I have said, 'Your patience, Lord'. Thus temptation has become to me a positive means of grace."

Here is a great example of decreasing self and increasing Christ. God has promised to every one of His children that we are **indwelt by the Holy Spirit**. When we **pray in the Holy Ghost** as Jude said, seeking His empowerment by faith, then God does as He has promised. Someone once said that the Christian life has not been tried and proven to be a failure. Those who rely on God by faith - just as we relied on Him for salvation -

will find that Jesus is all we need. The Bible says:

Romans 7:4-6 Wherefore, my brethren, **ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.** {5} For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. {6} **But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**

The Christian does what he does not because the Law says do it. He does what he does because God in us *empowers us to do it*. Our lives are a day by day reliance on Jesus Christ and on the Spirit of God! **Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

Feed not the flesh by sinning, but feed the Spirit by faith. The secret of the holy life is to let God live through you. Let love abide in you. Heed His Word:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For **the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: {15} And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

We live for Him and in Him - and overcome all because of Him.

4. The MUST of Service

FOCAL Jude 1 **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.**

Vance Havner said:

"We are always making an offering. If we do not give to God, we give to the devil. It is a continuous process going on all the time."

We must choose to give of ourselves to God. Those who are saved are saved to serve. As you who are Christians are saved by faith in Christ, this same Gospel of salvation *must* go out into all the world. The Bible said in:

John 4:3-4 {Jesus} left Judea, and departed again into Galilee. {4} And he MUST needs go through Samaria.

If God is conforming us to the image of His dear Son (He must increase, but I must decrease), then we must do the things that Jesus did. And the Bible says that **Jesus MUST NEEDS go through Samaria.** Jesus - a Jew - stepped outside His comfort zone. He didn't stay in Judea - His own country - but went to an area where Orthodox Jews were not welcome. He went among the Samaritans. He came to **Jacob's Well** and gave the Gospel of salvation to a Samaritan woman.

The **faith once delivered to the Saints** is not an inbred

faith. We do not receive the faith that saves us just to hoard it to ourselves. But we who belong to God *step outside of our comfort zone* and tell others about Jesus. The Gospel says:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We are saved by Grace. We are saved by coming to the Lord Jesus Christ with empty hands and - in faith - asking Him to fill them. Salvation is all of God! But what does God do with those whom He saves?

Ephesians 2:10 goes on to say:

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The word translated "**workmanship**" is the Greek word (ποίημα pronounced: *poy'-ay-mah*). You could transfer this word into the English as "**we are His poem, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before prepared that we should walk in them**".

The Lord takes broken and incomplete lives and makes them into Divine Poetry.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus Christ came to this earth - not to bring the whole

into the Family of God - but to bring the incomplete in this great family. He reached out to the Samaritans, a people who were tainted (according to the Jews) for their association with the ancient Assyrians. The Orthodox Jew would often go miles out of his way to avoid going through Samaria, and would certainly never speak to the Samaritan. When Jesus came upon this woman of Samaria she was - according to the Jews - of the *wrong* race and of the *wrong* morality. Yet God would make a poem of her life, just as He has made a poem of the life of every person who calls upon His Name.

Jesus began to speak to this woman at the well. He never mentioned her race, though she wondered why a Jew would have anything to do with a Samaritan (**John 4:9**). Jesus pointed out and condemned her sin (**John 4:18**), and rather than be offended, she marveled that Jesus knew of her past. She claimed that she was a good "attender of Church", but Jesus pointed out that her worship was not that which was honoring to God.

In honestly reaching out to this woman Jesus led her to Himself - and she began to be the catalyst that would lead that whole area to call upon the Name of the Lord and be saved. Jude tells us:

CONTEXT Jude 22-23 ... **of some have compassion, making a difference: {23} And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**

We are to be compassionate, not racist. I heard tell of people who chained black Americans to the back of pickup trucks and drug them to their deaths. I have also

heard of so called religious people who have done the same things to homosexuals, lesbians, and transgendered people. This is evil, and out of bounds. We as the Church of Christ must needs go through Samaria. We must tell the unbeliever that the Lord has made a way for them to be saved. We must tell them of the Living Water that Christ offers:

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

God is in the soul saving business, and none are sunk so low that God cannot reach them. **Jesus must needs go through Samaria.**

Listen Peter, "**what God hath cleansed, that call thou not common**" (**Acts 10:15**). The Lord can save any who will hear. Go to Cornelius' house, and tell him about Jesus. You must needs do it! **Philip** must leave in Samaria and **find an Ethiopian Eunuch**, leading him to the Lord Jesus. That Ethiopian will go back to his country and lead others to Christ.

Dear friends, we cannot win the world to Christ until we *go into the world and preach the Gospel*. We have to tell others. The same God Who saved you can save the Samaritan, the Eunuch, the woman at the well, the prostitute thrown down before Jesus, or the woman with stained conscience who washed the Master's feet and dried them with her hair.

Psalms 37:23-24 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. {24} Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

You have been given life to serve the Lord. Serve Him with all your might!

5. The MUST Of Spirit Filled Worship

CONTEXT Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

The fifth and final MUST of our faith is the MUST of Spirit filled worship. When the woman at the well told Jesus "Hey, I go to Church regularly - but I do it up here in the mountains", Jesus replied:

John 4:23-24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. {24} God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

When you "go to Church" are you there to fill in a square, or are you there to worship the Lord? Many people come to Church because they feel its *expected* of them. Some come to Church because they think they're earning "brownie points" toward salvation. Others come to be seen of men. **Evangelist Vance Havner** said that many come "to close the eyes and eye the clothes".

But for those in the know, we come to Church to **worship the Lord - for He is worthy of worship**. The Bible says that "the Father **SEEKETH** - (Present Active Indicative of the Greek ζητεω pronounced: *dzay-teh'-o*) - He keeps on looking for true worshipers to worship Him. It is pleasing to God when we worship Him. We cannot do anything to earn or deserve our salvation. Our every work in the flesh is "as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

God loves it when His Children - saved by the Grace of Calvary - come together with no other reason than to praise and thank Him.

This is a dying thing in our world today. People treat God as if He were a giant department store or a fast food restaurant. Can you imagine how you would feel if the only time your children spoke to you was to demand something. Just as you are pleased when your children come to you and say, "I love you", so does God want us to come to Him and say "I love You".

A Christian who will not praise the Lord in Spirit and in truth is an unlit candle. When the Christian praises and worships the Lord, the Lord blesses His child. We are to worship God with *singing*:

Psalms 95:1 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

We are to make a joyful noise unto Him, to sing praises unto our God. The Bible tells us in the **third**

commandment:

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

ILLUSTRATE Do you realize that "taking the name of the Lord thy God in vain" means to use His Name in an empty and useless way. It doesn't mean *just* to attach His Name - which is holy - to a human curse. Yes, that is one way we take His Name in vain, but another way is when we sing His Name without any intent of worshiping Him. To sing carelessly and without any thought:

**I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy Voice
And it told Thy love to me,
But I long to rise in the arms of faith;
And be closer drawn to Thee**

is to take God's Name in vain. The ancient Jew was very careful never to say the Name of the Lord thoughtlessly and without intent. When they sang, they sang UNTO THE LORD. Oh, how horrible to sing:

**I am weak, but Thou art strong,
Jesus keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long,
As I walk, let me walk
Close to Thee,**

and yawn through every stanza. This is the way of the unbeliever who doesn't know any better, but the people

of God should worship the Lord in Spirit AND in Truth.

We who are born again by faith in Christ have more right and more ability to be happy in God than anyone else in all the universe. Jesus Christ could have come dying for the angels - but instead He came and gave Himself for you and I. The Bible says:

Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

Jesus didn't have to die for all men - but He did. The Bible says that **God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16)**. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world. There are none outside of the reach of His glorious power, and none who cannot be saved if they but believe in Him.

The disciples stood at the Mount of Transfiguration, and saw **Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus**. When Moses and Elijah departed Peter said, "**Lord, let's build three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah**". At that moment God the Father, speaking from Heaven, said:

Matthew 17:5 ... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

"Jesus is here". Don't worry about Moses and Elijah, but Jesus is here. Hear Him!

A broken hearted **Martha** comes to Jesus, saying:

John 11:21 Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

Oh, how heart broken she was. What was Jesus' reply? He said:

John 11:25-26 ... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: {26} And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Don't worry about Lazarus. **Jesus is here.** Martha, I am not the MEANS to the resurrection and the MEANS to life, but I AM THE RESURRECTION and THE LIFE. Jesus is here. What does it matter if Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days or not. Jesus is here!

What of the **woman with the issue of blood**? She had been to doctor after doctor for twelve years, all to no avail. When Jesus passed by this woman didn't look to the right or the left. She focused on Jesus, thinking, "If I can *just touch the hem of His garment I'll be made whole*". **Jesus is here (Matthew 9:22)**, and I want lay hold on Him.

And what of the ruler of the Synagogue, a V.I.P., a Very Important Person, whose daughter lay dying? There is her still, lifeless body. Hear the mourners, and hear the mother crying brokenheartedly. What of it? **Jesus is here. Get up, young lady, get up! How dare you lay there as the dead while life holds your hand? (Matthew 9:24).**

And again, what of two **blind men stumbling down the road**, chasing and crying after Jesus. The storekeeper said, "Shut up, you are disturbing my trade". The mortician said, "Keep quiet, you will offend my clientele". The blind men kept yelling, and kept stumbling (**Matthew 9:28**). What did they care what anybody thought, for **Jesus is here.**

Over and over again we see Jesus. The Bible says that He has promised His people

Hebrews 13:5 I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

If we believed this precious promise, then we would worship the Lord with all our hearts every time we gather. He has said

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

When we gather to worship the Lord, He is with His people. He inhabits the praises of His Saints. Jude ends his letter with something that should make us all praise and worship God.

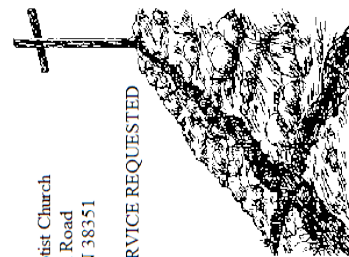
CONTEXT Jude 24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, {25} To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

God our Savior is able to keep us from falling. He will present us faultless before the presence of His glory. Why? Because you hear the call to salvation. You heard the glorious Gospel of Christ, and you called upon the Name of the Lord - and were saved. What about your neighbor?

W.A. Criswell said:

"One time I looked through a magazine and followed a series of pictures of one of the saddest stories that one could imagine. The first picture was of a vast wheat field in Western Kansas. The second picture was of the distress of the mother who was in a farmhouse in the middle of the wheat field. She had a small boy who had somehow wandered away from the house and into the wheat field. She could not find him, so she called for her husband, and together they searched for the lad. They finally called for the neighbors, who all began looking ... they could not find him. The next picture depicted all of the people who heard of that little boy being lost, joining hands in a great sweep as they said, "Let us join hands and let us go through this wheat field ... until we find that little boy." The last picture would break one's heart. It was a picture of the father standing over the body of his little boy. ... Underneath the picture were the words, "Oh God, that we had joined hands before!"

Will you join hands with me in reaching the lost for Christ? May God touch your hearts with His Word.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FOCAL Read Responsively Jude 1-3 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. {2} Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied. {3} **Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.**

Matthew 13:55-56; John 7:5; John 1:11; Jude 1; Luke 8:20-21; 1 Peter 2:9; Jude 3

1. You MUST Be Born Again

John 3:3; John 3:6-7; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Jude 4; John 1:13

- What does it mean to be "born AGAIN"? _____

2. Jesus MUST Be Lifted Up

Jude 1:1; Numbers 23:19; Genesis 2:17; John 3:14-16; Romans 3:23; John 1:29; 1 Peter 2:22-24; Jude 1; Psalms 100:3; 1 John 3:13-14; Jude 18; Romans 6:5-7; Jude 1; Colossians 3:1-8;

- By what *right* is a person **born again**? Can God just wave His hand and say, "I bestow upon you new birth?"

3. The MUST Of Decreasing Self

Jude 1; John 3:26; John 3:27-30; Romans 8:28-29; Romans 8:30-33; Galatians 5:24-26; Jude 20-21; Romans 7:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

4. The MUST of Service

Jude 1; John 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 2:10; Luke 19:10; John 4:9; John 4:18; Jude 22-23; John 4:14; Psalms 37:23-24

5. The MUST Of Spirit Filled Worship

Jude 20; John 4:23-24; Isaiah 64:6; Psalms 95:1; Exodus 20:7; Hebrews 2:16; John 3:16; Matthew 17:5; John 11:21; John 11:25-26; Matthew 9:22; Matthew 9:24; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20 ; Jude 24-25