

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE

JUDE 3—JUDE’S COMPULSION—“...IT WAS NEEDFUL FOR ME...”

INTRODUCTION

I understand the phrase in verse 3 where Jude says here “...it was needful for me,” as “JUDE’S COMPULSION.” Has there ever been anything that you felt compelled to do?

The word “Compulsion” means “being forced or constrained to do something.” (i.e. It is an attitude of “I must do this or I have to do this!”)

That word “needful” that Jude uses there means “constraint; to bear down upon; to compress.” We could say that God literally put a burden upon Jude (some might say He pressured Jude) to write this.

It is not popular to deliver messages about apostasy in times of apostasy. It was not what Jude wanted to do. But Jude was not the first that was compelled to do such a thing, nor was he the last.

Think about the calling of the Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was called to deliver a message of warning and imminent judgment to an apostate nation!

Jeremiah 1:5-10

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah opened his heart to God and expressed the depth of his inner emotions.

He says that he felt that God had deceived him by letting him be ridiculed by the people for his message!

He had faithfully warned them of the coming violence and destruction; but his reward was only their insults and persecution!

Discouraged, Jeremiah considered withholding God’s Word to avoid persecution, but he couldn’t do it!

Some of the prophets wrote of the “burden” of the Word of the Lord. (*Zechariah 9:1; 12:1; Malachi 1:1*)

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2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 3:15—“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

Psalm 119:46—“I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.”

There ought to be a **compulsion** (a driving force), a **compelling need** with regard to this matter of *contending for the faith*:

I. THERE IS THE COMPULSION OF OUR SITUATION!
(Romans 13:11-14)

Sometimes things are happening before us or around us or maybe there may be things that are imminent that compel us to take a stand and speak out for some things and/or against some things—To Earnestly Contend For The Faith!

It was that way with what Paul wrote here to the Roman Believers! “*And that, knowing the time...*”

It was that way with what Paul wrote to the Galatian Church!

It was that way with what Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church!

It was that way with Peter and James and others who wrote and warned Believers!

It was that way with what Jude writes in his short epistle!

We will see in the verses after this how that apostasy and false doctrine was rampant and there was a genuine concern that flowed over into this compulsion to write and warn Believers!

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Can we not see the great need in our day to stand and earnestly contend for the faith?

II. THERE IS THE COMPULSION OF OUR STEWARDSHIP!
(1 Corinthians 9:16-18)

A. The Responsibility Of Our Stewardship–Ministry!

1 Peter 4:10–“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

B. The Requirements Of Our Stewardship–Faithfulness!

1 Corinthians 4:1-2–“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

C. The Realization Of Our Stewardship–Obedience!
(Acts 4:17-20)

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

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Romans 1:14–“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Is the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone?
Is it in our possession? Have we been entrusted with it?
Have we been sent to give it?

If the Gospel of Jesus Christ is in our possession, and if it is to everyone, and if we have been sent to give it, then we are in debt to those who haven’t heard it!

D. The Reporting Of Our Stewardship–Reward Or Rebuke!
(1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 4:1-2)

Romans 14:12–“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

III. THERE IS THE COMPELLING LOVE OF OUR SAVIOUR!

A. The Saviour’s Sacrificial Love For All Sinners!

2 Corinthians 5:14–“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:”

2 Peter 3:9–“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

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B. The Believers’ Sacrificial Love For The Saviour!

In light of Christ’s great, sacrificial love toward us, we should have a reciprocal great, sacrificial love towards the Saviour that is manifested in our life being lived unto Him!

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 14 *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.*

1 John 4:19-- “We love him, because he first loved us.”

(John 21:15-17; Luke 7:36-47)

C. The Saviour’s Special Love For All The Saints!

(Ephesians 3:17-19)

Hebrews 6:10–“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

CONCLUSION

How compelled are you to stand for “*the faith?*”

Do you understand what it means to be a steward of “*the faith?*”

Do you know what “*the faith?*” is?

Do you only stand for it in the Church or around the saints or do you stand for it wherever you are?

Are you motivated as you should be “*to earnestly contend for the faith?*”