

Jude 24,25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present [you] faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

This morning we come to the last 2 verses of the book of Jude, a letter written to a group of believers who were facing the great danger of false teachers. The book's key verse told the readers in verse 3 **Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**

Jude told his readers about the coming destruction of the false teachers. He told them what these false teachers are like and what they hope to accomplish and why. He warned them about the effect these false teachers would have if the readers did not actively guard against their influence. Jude assured his readers that this was not a surprise to God. In fact the arrival of these teachers were prophesied even before the flood. And the main problem with the teachers is that they **DO NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT**. Their problem is not one that can be solved by argument. They are not born again.

Then Jude tells his listeners to build themselves up in the truth, in the genuine, in the most Holy Faith. He tells them to actively and persistently **Keep themselves in the love of God looking eagerly forward to the mercy of God leading to glorification.**

Then last week we looked at Jude's exhortation to the readers to actively reach out to the false ministers and those who are affected by this false ministry. He tells them to pull out all the stops.

After all this Jude's letter reaches its crescendo in verses 24 and 25. Jude breaks into the praise of the God who makes all of this happen. Jude knows full well that if the readers accomplish what he is instructing them to do, it is not because of their moral superiority. It is only due to the character and enabling of God. And it is only God who is worthy of our praise and our faith.

Now, let's look at the text.

Vs 24

To Him who is able- dynamai - this is the word Dynamite comes from.

to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful

Look at Jude's reason for confidence. Who is able, in the end, to do what he intends? Is the false teacher? No. He is not able. Is the believer? No, he is not able to keep himself in the faith. Where is the talent that will accomplish the ends that Jude instructs? It is only in God. It is **God** who is **able**. It is God who holds all the ability. And the believer can walk in confidence that his God **will** use this ability for the **good** of the saints. Our faith is not in believers. Our faith is in our Savior. We know what **we** are made of. We have seen our failures time and again. But thank God that our victory does not rest on **OUR** ability. It rests on **God's** ability.

Let's take a quick look at a few verses where the scripture uses this word-able

- **John 10:29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is ABLE to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one.**" No one is able to snatch them. Our enemy is not able to snatch us from God. The word for snatch is the same word used in verse 23 about the kind of rescue we are to do with the committed follower of false teaching. Where it says "pulling them" it could also be interpreted "snatching them". While God may give **the believer** the ability to snatch a non believer from the rim of hell, **the devil himself cannot snatch** a believer from God's hand. We are enabled to be the vehicles of the lost persons salvation, but no one is able to get them back from God's sovereign protection. So no one is **able** to snatch the Christian.

Rom 14:4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. God's servants will stand because God is **able** to make them stand. Notice the reasoning that a believer will stand till the end- this is called the perseverance of the saints. What is the basis of it? Is it man's ability? No, not at all. The saints will stand until the end because our **God is able and willing to see it happen**. The word here for **MADE** in "Made to Stand" is the same word used in Jude 24 for "Present". The word has a lot of uses. It essentially means to cause or make to stand. So we will stand in our sanctification by the same means

we will stand in our glorification. It will all be based on God's ability and God's intention and God's provision. The beauty of it all is that we have absolute security. Our salvation is not based on our ability to save ourselves. It is based in God's ability to save us. So we, like Jude, no matter what the challenge, can break out in the end in praises to God knowing that is **He** who will accomplish our salvation **for** us in justification and **in** us through sanctification.

Next verse-

Rom 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began God is able to establish us according to the Gospel. The word for establish means 1) to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix, to strengthen, make firm, to render constant, confirm, one's mind.

When Paul set his mind to go to Jerusalem this was the word used. His mind was made up and he would not waver. It is God who is able to make us stable, to firmly place us, to set us fast, to make us unmovable. If you are afraid that you are not able to do such a thing, don't fret. This isn't relying upon your ability. It is God who is able.

Eph 3:20 20Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. Think about what that is saying this morning. How much can our God do? And even better, how much can God do in our **lives**? Paul tells us what God can do. Think of everything that you have ever thought to ask God to do. He can do more. Think of what you have imagined that God can do. He can do more. His ability is endless. He is omnipotent. And fortunately He is also omniscient. So He will not always do all that we ask or think when we ask amiss. But He will do so when we pray according to His will. And that is the power this verse says is working **IN US**. How glorious is that? And we have trouble doing what???

So, this morning, what are you facing that you don't have the ability to handle? Is it a temptation? Is it a trial? Is it a tough situation? Is it a pesky devilish idea? Whatever it is, maybe you are afraid of it because you have never been able to overcome it. Well praise God this morning. Your victory is not based on Your ability, it is based on God's ability. Is God able to handle this temptation, this trial, this situation? Well if He is, then **you are through His power**. Our salvation is not based on our ability. It is based on His ability. There is no excuse, none whatsoever, for a believer not overcoming through faith in Christ. We may need our brothers and sisters help in keeping our faith focused, but victory is ours through Christ. **HE IS ABLE.**

to keep you from stumbling

To keep- phyllasso A military word- 1) to guard a) to watch, keep watch b) to guard or watch, have an eye upon: lest he escape c) to guard a person (or thing) that he may remain safe

God is able to keep guard on our souls, to watch, to have an eye on us to make sure that we do not stumble. Now who do you think will ever slip by God when He is in the guard tower?

Here's another passage that uses the word Keep.

II Timothy 1: 12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Christ is able to keep our lives guarded and safe. He is watching over our lives and hearts in a continual guard duty.

And what is he keeping us from?

From falling- aptaistos 1) not stumbling, standing firm, exempt from falling.

The word actually means falling-not. So this guard that God is putting on our souls may not protect us from having a trial. It won't protect us from difficulty. It won't even keep us from failure and sin. We do have choices to make. But it **will** keep us from **falling away** from God. A true believer may stray, but he cannot fall. His salvation is solid. It is guaranteed. Christ paid for it. So we can rest assured that if we are in Christ, we are **secure** in Christ. He will even protect us from falling into error, into apostasy. While the false teachers were a real danger, they

would not result in the falling away of those who are Christ's. It is He who will protect us to the end. We are to exert all the human effort we have at our disposal to be faithful to our God. But we can be thankful that in the end **that effort is not what saves us.** It is God who saves us.

And to present [you]

We have already covered the word present. It means to cause or make to stand.

Let's look at a few other verses that talk about standing in the presence of God.

Psalms 1:5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 5: The boastful shall not stand in Your sight;

You hate all workers of iniquity.

6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;

The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;

In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

There are many verses that talk about how the wicked will not be able to stand in God's presence. When we are in Adam, we would do well to be scared out of our minds at the idea of standing before God. If we stand before God without the righteousness of Christ in our place we will not stand long and it will only be to receive our pronouncement of wrath. To stand before God is unthinkable if we know who God is. It is in that light that the glory of what Christ did for us shines most brightly. God will **stand us** in **HIS** glorious, righteous, just, presence and we will belong there. And we will look at our lives and wonder how can that be? But then we will gaze upon Christ and we will know how that can be. We will see the grace that is greater than all our sin.

And how will he Stand us in God's presence?

Faultless- amomos 1) without blemish

a) as a sacrifice without spot or blemish

2) morally: without blemish, faultless, unblameable

This word is only used for those things that are perfect. It is either used of some attribute of God that is faultless or a work that God has done in a man that causes him to be blameless. It never refers to something a man attains for himself.

Here is an example of how it is used:

Ephesians 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

It is only by the work of Christ on the cross that we can be without blame, holy and faultless.

Before the presence of His Glory- The word for presence means- over against, before the face of, before the presence of, in the sight of, before, before God as judge.

Let your mind dwell on this. Consider it. If you are a believer, you will stand before God in judgment.... And you will continue standing. We will not receive the penalty that we deserved from the sins we committed. We will not face the wrath of God that will be delivered to all those in Adam. We will stand. That is astounding. We will be able to stand, in fact **made to stand**, by the God who paid the penalty for our sins. That will happen on a real day just like today. We will be told by our Father, "Well done my good and faithful servant". And that will be the perfect demonstration of what our God is able to do.

with exceeding joy,

Exceeding joy- agalliasis 1) exultation, extreme joy, gladness

The unbeliever will face judgment with fear and trembling. They may even gnash their teeth in bitterness toward God. But for the believer, this is the day they have always looked forward to. This is the day when they get to see their Savior. Any price that was paid by them was paid believing that this day would someday come. And so when Christ returns this is the day they have been living for. It is Christmas day 1000 times over.

Is that what we are wildly looking forward to? Is that the reward we seek? Is that the culmination of all our plans? Or would that disturb our plans? If we are living as Christ told us to live, His return will be the best thing that could happen on any given day.

to God our Savior, who alone is wise, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

To God our Savior- This may be a reference to Christ. The word Savior most often refers to Christ. But there are several references to God our Savior, so it may be that both the Father and Son are referred to as Savior or this may be referring to the Son in such a manner as to affirm His Deity. I can't tell.

Who alone is wise-

The word for alone is monos- alone (without a companion), forsaken, destitute of help, alone, only, merely.

The word for Wise means skilled, expert, forming the best plans and using the best means for their execution

When we combine the words that God is alone wise we see that He is without rivals in his ability to form the best plan and to carry it out. He is the only expert in life. He alone knows what we need, even before we ask. He promises to meet His children's needs. He's got it covered.

"But God", we say. "You don't understand." "I must have this or I must have that to be happy." "My circumstance is so difficult." "These temptations are too strong".

When will we realize that each of these things that we find painful has a purpose in our lives? How long will it take for us to accept that our God, and our God alone, is wise? If I had my way in my life it would be an absolute shipwreck. It would be free of pain. It would be free of heartache. It would be free of struggle. And without doubt it would be free of the fruit of God's Spirit. It would be free of depth. It would be free of ministry. And it would be free of looking forward to eternity with Christ. The Lord alone is wise.

Look at the struggles in your life this morning. Some of them others know about. Some of them only you know about. But God not only **knows**

about them. He has a plan for them. Every moment we spend wishing it were different is a moment that we waste. The better question is how can I faithfully respond in this situation? How can I apply the wisdom of the only wise God? He has shared His wisdom with us. Will we submit? If we truly believe that God alone is wise, the best evidence of that belief is a willingness to quickly submit to Him in every circumstance..

The Bible tells us that there is a way that seems right to a man but the end of it is destruction. We can come up with a million ways to respond. But there is only one **wise** way- the way that God instructs. And if we have any wisdom at all we will obey.

[be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Now Jude puts everything into perspective. Praise is just that. Perspective. Praise is actively ascribing God's attributes to Himself. Praise paints the true picture of who God is. And it lifts our hearts to look above what we see and experience, to see, by faith, the One who is above all.

And what attributes does this God have?

Glory- which is splendour, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace, Glory is the kingly majesty which belongs to God as supreme ruler, Glory is majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity. Glorious is our God.

Majesty- This word is the language of the court. It is the quality that God has as the King of the universe, as Sovereign. This word is used 3 times in scripture. In Hebrews 1:3 and 8:1 it is used in association with the throne of God. This is the majesty that can only be ascribed to the high King, the King of all kings. Majestic is our God.

Dominion- is force, strength, power, might: Dominion means mighty with great power, a mighty deed, a work of power. This word expresses God's breadth of control over everything. Our God has dominion over everything and everyone.

Power- power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases, the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed)

God is the authority. He is the one who has absolute and ultimate authority over everything.

Those are some of the attributes of the God we serve this morning. Our God is worthy to be ascribed with all these virtues because He holds them in absolute perfection. It is that which assures us that **any trust we place in God is well placed trust. Any submission that we give willingly is wise submission. Any praise we give is accurately ascribed to our God.** He and He alone is worthy of praise.

And when do these attributes belong to God?

Both now and forever. God is always all these things. God will never change. So we can rest assured that our faith is well placed and that our God will deliver on every promise.