

A FAITH WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Who Has It?

TEXT: Jude 1

INTRODUCTION: I hope last Sunday when I told you of the survey I did that asked “What is one thing worth fighting for?” that you asked yourself that question. I’m not concerned that you narrowed it down to just one thing, because in reality there are a number of things worth fighting for.

But the half-brother of Jesus named Jude writes his letter to believers about one thing worth fighting for. He mentions it in verse 3.

Jude 3 ... 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.

Last week we asked the question “What is that kind of faith that is worth fighting for?”

We noted that Jude described it as

FAITH IN A RESURRECTED SAVIOR

FAITH IN A SOVEREIGN LORD

This morning I want to move to a second question: Who has that kind of faith? Again Jude himself gives us the answer as we read the rest of verse 1.

Jude 1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

Jude says, “Dude, the folks who have the kind of faith that is worth fighting for, you know, faith in a resurrected Savior and a Sovereign Lord, they are the folks I am writing this letter to. They are the people who are the called, the sanctified, and the preserved in Jesus Christ.”

What is Jude talking about?

I. THE CALLED

A. Translation of Greek word kletos, which is related to the verb kaleo by the way, and it means the ones invited, the ones called out.

B. We who count ourselves among the people of faith, who have believed in Jesus as the resurrected Savior and have trusted Him as our sovereign Lord, need to remember.

1. God called us.

We may have called out to the Lord or called upon the Lord, but our call was responsive. God called first!

God took the initiative.

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

2. **God called us to salvation.**

a. That is why some of you have this stirring in your heart

b. That is why some of you have a tightening in your chest

3. **God also calls every saved person to service.**

God does not just call some to service, God calls all. He equips and calls us to different types of service, but there are some things about our call to service that every saved person has in common.

John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

a. **As people of faith, each of us is sent out.** We are called like Jonah was called.

b. **We are called**

- **to be making disciples wherever we go,**

- **leading people to faith in Christ**
 - **helping them grow in that faith and in their walk with the Lord.**
- c. **We are called to be making those disciples in the four regions of our world:**
- **Our Jerusalem – where we live** (right now we need more Benevolence workers. God is calling people out.)
 - **Our Judea – the region surrounding our home**
 - **Our Samaria – the area nearby but different** (where our college students are this morning)
 - **Our End of the Earth - our everything else!**

If we are people of faith in Christ, we have said yes to God's call to salvation, and we will say yes to God's call to service.

People who have faith in the resurrected Savior and Sovereign Lord are also

II. THE SANCTIFIED

A. Sanctified is the translation of the word that means “made holy.”

- 1. When we are saved, our sin is forgiven**
- 2. We are given the righteousness of Christ.**
- 3. We are made holy judicially before God.**
- 4. God begins to transform our lives to make us holy in the practical dimensions of our daily lives.**
 - God's primary instrument in transforming us is the Word of God
 - Reason for Lifechange Groups and Kid Zone
 - Reason why preaching is central to worship
- 5. The evidence of #4 is the assurance of # 1, 2, and 3!**

B. Those who are truly saved are sanctified.

C. Those who are totally unsanctified have never been saved.

III. THE PRESERVED

A. Preserved is the translation for “tereo” which means to keep. Those who have “that faith,” faith in a resurrected Savior and a Sovereign Lord, are kept.

B. If something is “kept,” there must be a “keeper.” Who is our keeper?

C. Our Keeper is God Himself!

Jesus Himself said the exact same thing that Jude is saying about people who have faith in Christ.

Jude says,

They are called by God and they answer the call.

They are sanctified by God, changed, transformed as they follow Christ.

They are preserved, kept by God Who keeps them as part of His family forever.

Jesus says,

John 10:27–30 ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 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.”
Compare the two.

Jude says	Jesus says
They are called by God and they answer the call.	My sheep hear My voice.
They are sanctified by God, changed, transformed as they follow Christ.	They follow Me.
They are preserved, kept by God Who keeps them as part of His family forever.	I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one is able to snatch <i>them</i> out of My Father’s hand.

So, back to where we began today.

What is the faith worth fighting for?

It is faith in a Resurrected Savior.

It is faith in a Sovereign Lord.

Who has that kind of faith?

Those who have been called by God and who have answered that call.

Those who after they said yes to the call, God saved, forgave their sin and gave them the righteousness of His own perfect Son, and whom God began to transform to be more like His Son in their daily living.

Those whom God is now preserving, keeping as part of His family for eternity.

Are you one of those who has that kind of faith? You can be. You can answer God's call today and trust in Christ.