

Jude 20-23 Jude's Final Exhortation for Believers' Response to False Teachers

^{NET} **Jude 1:20** “But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy **faith**, by praying in the Holy Spirit,²¹ **maintain yourselves in the love of God**, while anticipating the mercy of our **Lord Jesus Christ** that brings eternal life.

- Interesting to note Jude's use of triplets in the verse. In blue is faith, hope (anticipating), and love. Also including a wonderful use of a Trinitarian formula (red).
- There are four imperatives (commands) in this section in the Greek. I have bolded them in the text above and we understand that they are a culmination of verse 3.
- The first command is to maintain (keep) ourselves in the love of God. This happens through the description of the two participles before the 1st command and the one participle after (they are underlined). It's also important to note that this is a plural command that implies a collective fulfillment when applicable.
- In addition to the participles (below), how else do we “remain” in the love of God (John 15:9-10)?
- The 1st way to maintain ourselves in the love of God is through building ourselves up. One of the main ways we do this is through the word of God.

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32)

- Involvement in the ministry of the local body of believers is one of the most important ways to be built up (Rom 14:19-20; 1 Cor 14:12, 26; Eph 4:11-12, 16; 1 Thess 5:8-11; Colossians 2:6-8)
- The 2nd way to maintain ourselves in the love of God is “praying in the Spirit” (Eph 6:18). Other activities in the Spirit (Mark 12:36; Acts 19:21; Rom 14:17; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:16-22).
- The 3rd and final way to maintain ourselves in the love of God is through anticipating the mercy of the Lord that brings eternal life (cf. Phil 2:12). This has an eschatological aspect (Titus 2:13).

^{NET} ²² **And have mercy on those who waver**; ²³ **save others** by snatching them out of the fire; **have mercy on others**, coupled with a fear of God, hating even the clothes stained by the flesh. ”

- Jude is encouraging us not take a judgmental attitude towards those who are wavering (doubting) and possibly caught up into the false teacher's snare, but to show mercy (Luke 19:10; Matt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1-2; Luke 17:3-4).
- Others we are to save by rescuing them from the fire (James 5:19-20; John 3:16-18; 3:36). Interestingly, the word for “snatching” is the same word we get for “rapture” (1 Thess 4:17).
- Again, we are reminded to have mercy coupled with fear (1 Corinthians 10:12; 15:33).
- As we have mercy on the sinner, we are to hate the sin and anything remotely connected .