



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 7/15/2022

Scripture: Jude

TITLE: Jude – Fight for the Faith

Have you ever signed up for an event that required preparation and training? I never have for an athletic event, but I have for credentialing through a church denomination. I had to write a lengthy paper stating and defending my biblical convictions. But then the real training began because I needed to defend my positions to a board of theologians. I studied and prepped for weeks. Because of my training, I successfully defended my positions and became a credentialed pastor for this association of churches.

We all should be training for spiritual fitness because the world is determined to weaken your faith. So if you want to be spiritually fit and ready to stand firm in your faith, you should read the Book of Jude.

The book of Jude is written by the half-brother of Jesus, Jude. What makes this important is that Jesus' brothers did not believe he was the Messiah until after they encountered a risen Jesus. This event changed his life and soul. We don't know who Jude was writing to, but it was a group of Christians, likely in a local church. He wrote this around 67 A.D.

In this letter, you will be reminded to be on guard for false teachers who are set to lead you and the church astray. You must be ready to fight for sound doctrine. This will come at a cost. Jude writes about three kinds of sin that bring about God's punishment. Jude tells his audience that faithfulness will result in persecution. This persecution will only increase as the return of Christ draws near. And it is our privilege and duty to help rescue those who become swept up in false teaching and deception.

So what's the main thing from the Book of Jude? Fight for true Christianity. Jude 1:3-4 says, "Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write, appealing to you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all. For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master, and Lord."

Friend, we are in a spiritual battle, and the souls of the world are on the line. No, we don't save anyone, but we are called to share the Good News, contend for the faith, and help those who are being pulled away from sound doctrine.

Author and contender of the faith, Voddie Baucham, gives this challenge: "Don't let anyone tell you that it's not loving if you stand flat-footed and speak the truth. What's not loving is to look

someone in the eye when God says they are in jeopardy of an eternity in hell and merely wink and not at their sin because you are afraid of being called names. Speak the true saints.”

To that, I say, “Amen. Fight for the faith.”

So here’s my challenge for you today: fight for the truth. Stand firm. If Christianity is true, then we have a duty and privilege to fight for truth because the truth will set you free. To engage in God’s Word. Prepare for the battle. And then fight. And when we do, we will win the day.