

Am I really a Christian?



You Are Not A Christian If You Do Not Endure To The End

Jude 1:20-25

Main Idea

Endure as God enables. Strive as God sustains. Persevere as God preserves. Contend for the faith as God keeps you in the faith.

Overview

I. Setup: You are not a Christian if you do not endure to the end

- Scripture clearly tells us true, saving faith is enduring faith (cf. Mt 10:22; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14; Rom. 8:32-39; Phil. 1:6).
- Two Dangers
 - “Always Worrying” – If we have truly repented of our sins and are actively trusting in Jesus we are saved and need not worry about losing our salvation (cf. Jn 10:17-29; Eph. 1:14; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:32-29)
 - “Never Trying” – “Once saved always saved right, so why bother doing anything?” That type of thinking is not how true Christians think; we have to understand that faith in Christ is not just a past profession; it’s a current possession that causes us to walk in obedience to God
- But what about those who profess faith in Christ and then deny Him or live like He has no bearing on his life? John says they were never really saved in the first place (cf. 1 Jn 2:19)

II. How Do We Endure to the End?

- Realize enduring requires effort
 - Jude says God keeps us, but that we must also keep ourselves in God’s love (v. 21)
 - This does not mean our keeping/obedience (cf. Jn 15:9-11) earns God’s love but evidences God’s love
 - God’s actions is decisive; our actions are dependent
- Endure by building up your faith
 - This is not some internal subjective belief that we try to mysteriously conjure up; this is a faith, a trusting in and resting upon the historic, events of the gospel – the public death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - Build yourself in the love of God by rehearsing to yourself the love of God – the gospel
 - Notice the keeping and building is done in the context of community – “yourselves” is plural
- Endure by praying in the Holy Spirit

- This means to pray being controlled and guided by the God's Spirit; to pray as you are moved and enabled by the Spirit
- The Spirit of God indwells every believer that we might look to the Son of God Jesus who is our mediator in prayer before God the Father, and we pray "in the Spirit" when we are trusting in Christ who purchased our prayers.
- Endure by waiting for the mercy of Jesus
 - In Christ we are waiting for mercy not judgment/wrath/condemnation
 - Don't just complain about this world; actively wait for the next
- Endure by resting
 - Jude book ends his letter by reminding his readers and us it's ultimately God who keeps us (cf. v1, 24)
 - Jesus purchased your salvation that you might rest assured with great joy in the prize of your salvation, God himself

Questions

Discussion Starter: Have there been experiences in your life where you have been quickly excited about that something, but that excitement evaporated just as quickly? What does that tell you how you 'feel' about that thing you were once excited about?

1. Read Mt 10:22; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14; Rom. 8:32-39; Phil. 1:6. What do these verses tell us about the necessity of enduring in the faith?
2. Why is it wrong for the Christian to always worry if they are truly saved? Why is it wrong for anyone to automatically assume they are saved?
3. How do we explain those who once professed faith in Jesus, but now deny him?
4. Read Jude 1:1-4, 20-25. Explain how Jude is not contradicting himself when he says in verses 1, 24 that we are kept by God, but in verse 21 says we have to keep ourselves.
5. What does Jude mean when he says keep yourselves by "building yourselves up in the most holy faith?" How does this help you endure? What are some practical ways to do this?
6. What does Jude mean when he says keep yourselves by "praying in the Holy Spirit?" How does this help you endure? What are some practical ways to do this?
7. What does Jude mean when he says keep yourselves by "waiting for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ?" How does this help you endure? What are some practical ways to do this?
8. Jude uses "yourselves," which is plural, and then in verses 22-23, Jude says that we need to help others endure. How does living in community help you endure? How does loving in community help others endure?

Accountability Question: Have recently experienced God's grace through another brother or sister who has helped you endure? If so, tell them. If you were going to be tempted to not endure, where/how do you think that would happen?