**Postcard Epistle Series September 4, 2022**

**Remaining in the Faith - Jude 17-25**

Apostates Do Not **Remain in the Faith** Jude 17-19

* The apostles predicted **their behavior**
  + See Acts 20:29–30 and 1 Timothy 4:1
* They are following their sinful desires
  + They **mock or scoff at** the faith of true Christians
  + Rather than pursuing righteousness, they seek to satisfy their fleshly desire / sinful nature which shows their true nature as unbelievers
    - See Ephesians 4:22–23
* They cause **divisions in the church**
  + See 1 Corinthians 11:18
* They are of the world and **not of Christ**
  + Their primary focus is self-promotion (e.g. selling books, podcasts, music!) or putting themselves above Christ
  + See 1 Corinthians 2:14
* They do not have the **Holy Spirit living in them**

True Christ Followers Demonstrate Their Faithfulness Jude 20-21

* They pursue **sanctification**
  + “Building yourself up in your most holy faith” (v. 20a)
  + It is an on-going and progressive work on God in the life of the believer
  + No one grows accidently: it takes time, energy, and concerted effort toward the goal of a deepening faith
  + The only way to do this is to devote time to reading, understanding and applying God’s Word
* They pray continuously **in the Spirit**
  + All true Christ followers have the Holy Spirit living in them
  + See Romans 8:9
* They are devoted to **loving God as priority**
  + Love is always an action verb
  + It takes intentional effort to love God on a daily and on-going basis
* They anticipate the **return of Christ**
  + See 1 Peter 1:13

True Christ Followers Are Merciful Jude 22-23

* They are reassuring to those **who have doubts**
  + They may be Christians who have questions
  + They may be unbelievers who are coming to Christ
* They plead with the unsaved to **come to Christ**
  + There is eternal judgment coming for those who reject Christ and His offer of eternal life
  + See Revelation 20:11-15
* They carefully guard against **corruption**
  + See 2 Corinthians 7:1

Only God Can Keep Us in the Faith Jude 24-25

* He will keep true Christians **blameless – always**
  + See 1 Thessalonians 5:23
* This will result in **eternal praise** from all Christ followers
  + One day, all Christ followers will bow at His throne in eternal worship
  + See Philippians 2:10–11

**What does this mean for us?**

* Don’t be surprised at the great falling away in our generation and time
* Continue to be on guard regarding false teaching, false prophecy and pretend Christians
* If you are a true Christ follower, God will keep you in the faith eternally

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**Remaining in the Faith - Jude 17-25**

Apostates Do Not **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Jude 17-19

* The apostles predicted **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + See Acts 20:29–30 and 1 Timothy 4:1
* They are following their sinful desires
  + They **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** the faith of true Christians
  + Rather than pursuing righteousness, they seek to satisfy their fleshly desire / sinful nature which shows their true nature as unbelievers
    - See Ephesians 4:22–23
* They cause **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + See 1 Corinthians 11:18
* They are of the world and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Their primary focus is self-promotion (e.g. selling books, podcasts, music!) or putting themselves above Christ
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* They do not have the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

True Christ Followers Demonstrate Their Faithfulness Jude 20-21

* They pursue **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + “Building yourself up in your most holy faith” (v. 20a)
  + It is an on-going and progressive work on God in the life of the believer
  + No one grows accidently: it takes time, energy, and concerted effort toward the goal of a deepening faith
  + The only way to do this is to devote time to reading, understanding and applying God’s Word
* They pray continuously **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + All true Christ followers have the Holy Spirit living in them
  + See Romans 8:9

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True Christ Followers Are Merciful Jude 22-23

* They are reassuring to those **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + They may be Christians who have questions
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* They carefully guard against **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
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Only God Can Keep Us in the Faith Jude 24-25

* He will keep true Christians **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + See 1 Thessalonians 5:23
* This will result in **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from all Christ followers
  + One day, all Christ followers will bow at His throne in eternal worship
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**What does this mean for us?**

* Don’t be surprised at the great falling away in our generation and time
* Continue to be on guard regarding false teaching, false prophecy and pretend Christians
* If you are a true Christ follower, God will keep you in the faith eternally
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