



The Book of Jude God is Able

To keep you from falling away...
The 'keeping' power of God is not to be underestimated. Have you embraced Him as He has embraced you in His 'keeping' of you in His salvation?

Introduction to Jude: Like Hebrews, James, 1 Peter and 2 Peter, Jude was written primarily to Jewish believers. Besides persecution from outside the believing community there was the rise of false teaching from within. After warning about false teaching Jude exhorts his readers to dig in and build themselves up in the faith and then reveals how God keeps them in the faith.

A. Keeping God Jude 20-23

(1) Keep the faith: [:20] The term "most holy faith" first refers to 'salvation by faith alone.' The Jewish believers were tempted to return to Judaism for their salvation rather than trust in the finished work of the Messiah on the cross. However, this would also include our faith in God's Word—faith in His Word for both salvation and continued victory in life.

(2) Keep (praying in) the Spirit: [:21] Both the indwelling (Rom 8:9-12) and filling (Rom 8:26-27) of the Spirit are in view here.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

(3) Keep love: [:21] The word 'keep' means to guard—we are to set a guard around love and NOT let anything rob us of the LOVE OF GOD or the LOVE OF ONE ANOTHER.

(4) Keep looking: [:21] Specifically looking to the coming of the Lord for His Church and His people.

(5) Keep compassion: [:22-23] The idea of compassion here is the concept of mercy. Have concern, mercy and a caring spirit on those who are struggling with their faith and seek ways to help them.

B. God Keeping Me Jude 24

(1) God is able: [:24] In spite of everything that I would do—ONLY God can keep me from falling away. Notice that Jude does not say that God 'will' keep you from falling—but that He is 'able' to keep you from falling. However, if He is able—will He also not use that ability to keep you from falling?

(2) Standing before Him: [:24] The word for 'present' in the Greek is the word 'to stand.' God is able to 'stand us up before Him' at the throne of God. We often see ourselves as kneeling or laying prostrate before God in reverence to Him. **So why does He 'stand us up before Him?'**

(a) Standing faultless: He stands us up before Him because of the shed blood of the Lamb. We can 'stand' without spot or blemish (faultless) because of the work of Christ—the Lamb of God. And we do it with 'exceeding joy.'

C. The God Who Keeps Jude 25 Eight characteristics of the God who keeps!

- (1) He is the ONLY God
- (2) He is the Only Saviour
- (3) His Salvation is through Jesus Christ
- (4) He is Glory * See side box
- (5) He is Majesty (King of Kings)
- (6) He is Dominion (Lord of Lords)
- (7) He is Power (Authority):
- (8) He is Eternal

Jude 20-23 (NKJV)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Jude 24-25 (NASB)

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, [*see below]

25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

* The Meaning of God's Glory

Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But we shall then know that these are the same thing. *Fully to enjoy is to glorify.* In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him.

C.S. Lewis, Reflections on the Psalms