

ONE HIT WONDERS

Jude

- Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Himself
 - And he wrote this letter somewhere between 65-80 AD to a Jewish-Christian audience who was once again being infiltrated by false teachers
- ***“This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love. Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all***

time to His holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God’s marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” -Jude 1-4 (NLT)

- How many of you played sports growing up?
 - Middle school, high school, college
- I was a three sport athlete in high school, I played football a little bit, a played mostly left bench in soccer, but my main sport was basketball
- And I remember my freshman year, I was still playing JV but high school basketball was what I had been looking forward to since I was in like 4th grade
- And I was finally there!
- I felt so cool, you know. I got the matching shoes to my uniform, had my number on them

- Any time I'm at home or at the gym I'm constantly practicing the big shot
- Right? Anyone who had ever loved sports has always been that kid all by themselves at the court inventing a big game moment, hitting a shot and then turning to the make believe crowd!
- Now, those championship game on the line moments don't happen very often, so you still try to make big moments
- Like, my freshman year, I was the only one on my team that was allowed to shoot 3's. I had proved to coach in practice that I was capable and good at it, and I got the green light to shoot from beyond the arc in the games.
- It was a big deal for this coach to allow a freshman to shoot 3's, that wasn't something that he normally did because he didn't want all of these kids just jacking up shots from all over the place like we see today...
- So we have a home game, and I'm ready, and some of the other students start talking about me being able to shoot.
- And of course the girl that I liked at the time was there
- And she was like "You gonna hit a 3 today?"
- And I was like "I don't know, I might..." Then I said, "If I do, I'll give you a point"
 - She was like "whatever"
- Then when the game started, in the first quarter, i'm pretty sure it was my first shot of the game, "I got the ball at the top of the key, pulled up, and CASH!"
- So I'm jogging back down the court, and I see her, and I give her a point
- And then the ball goes whizzing by my head, and then I stumble to get back on defense and then I foul the guy at the rim for an easy And-1

- So you know what coach did? He yanked me outa that game so fast.
- He was from Maine, right, so he said, “KENNY HALL! You’re out there HOT DOGGIN’ around SIT on the bench!!”
- You know, all the times you practice or dream about making the highlight play, you never think about or practice getting back on defense
- And there are a lot of churches I think that want to only focus on the highlights, the fun stuff, the things that make us feel good
- And Jude says, yea, I was wanting to just focus on that stuff, but sometimes we gotta play defense too.
- That’s why he says in verse 3, *“I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write to, urge you to defend the faith that God has entrusted to us.” -Jude 3*
- Then he talks about how some ungodly people, according to some translations, “Have crept in unnoticed.” But one of the reasons I chose the NLT is because I like how it says, “Wormed their way into your churches.”
- This has kind of been a theme throughout these One-Hit-Wonders, with a sense of urgency from John and Jude about these wormy theologies that have been creeping into the church
- And it’s still a problem today, we have all kinds of false teaching and false doctrines that have wormed into our churches all over the country and all over the world that we will have to play defense against from time to time
- And this can be uncomfortable. Because I don’t know about you but I would rather focus more on what I am for than what I am against

- And that is still true, however, the problem is that we cannot completely ignore what we are against.
- And even more so, many of us don't completely know what we are supposed to be for in the first place in which case we wouldn't be able to clearly recognize what we are against when it shows up.
- So Jude, in this letter gives us a few things that we are to defend against, and also, probably even more importantly, he tells us how we are to go about playing that defense.
- So first, some things that we are to defend against:
- in verse 5, he writes, ***“So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has***

kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. And don't forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.” -Jude 5-7 (NLT)

- So first: **WE PLAY DEFENSE AGAINST: SELF-INDULGENCE**
 - There have been and continue to be teachers that push a narrative of you need to do what you feel is best for you!
 - There are many churches that center their theologies around feelings and experience, rather than doctrine and truth.
 - And there are wayyyy too many Christians that make themselves the primary focus of their faith, Not God.

- This is where you get the line, “God just wants me to be happy?”
- But God is more concerned with your holiness than your happiness
- He is more concerned with your well-being, than your personal preferences
 - When some will teach you to follow your heart, God’s Word says, through the prophet Jeremiah, “No, your heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, you can’t understand it.”
- We have to know the line between what I want, and what’s God’s best
 - Because I have lived long enough to know that I don’t know what’s best for my life...but God does!
 - And if I just align myself with His word, He will lead me in the way that I should go, and I’ll be alright
 - Even if every fiber of my being feels like doing the opposite, if I stay within His will and His way, things will go well for me!
- Jude gives some Old Testament examples, to drive home this point.
 - Now some would say that those Old Testament passages don’t apply anymore since the revelation of Christ but Paul would disagree.
 - He told the Romans ***“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” -Romans 15:4 (ESV)***
- That’s why Jude reminds us of the Israelites who were more concerned with their personal comfort than their communion with God
- Paul expounds on this in 1 Corinthians ***“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual***

food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.” -1 Corinthians 10:1-11 (ESV)

- All of these things described in the Old Testament serve as a warning for us as to what can happen in our spiritual lives.
 - Because the self-indulgent Christian will become idolaters that put themselves above Christ, they will be self-destructive grumblers and complainers constantly blaming God for everything that goes wrong
 - When in reality the only thing that leads us to misery, is our willingness to go outside of the boundaries that God has set up for us.
- Like the angels did, as Jude points out, in the days of Noah, when they left the perimeters that God had set up, and began to marry human women and have children
 - Then God’s design for humanity became corrupted and He flooded the earth to reset
 - And those angels are facing eternal judgement
- Then Jude says, ***“And don’t forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns,***

which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God's judgment.” -Jude 7

- Again this is a warning for us, of what the eternal ramifications for us can be if we buy into false teachings that tell us to indulge ourselves and natural sinful inclinations.
- There were teachers, like the gnostics that we talked about the other week, that were encouraging these young Christians to engage however they wanted sexually because it didn't matter what they did with their bodies
 - Their bodies, they taught, were just meaningless matter, so do whatever you want and feel like doing
- And now, Jude is defending against those being taught that they can do whatever they want and whatever they feel with their bodies because God's grace will just forgive them!

- And Jude says, to follow that teaching will lead you to a Sodom and Gomorrah type ending

- ***“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” -1 Corinthians 18-20 (ESV)***

- You see this is where the common saying, that “all sins are equal” kind of falls apart
 - Because that actually isn't a scriptural principle
 - While we all sin and fall short, the ways that we sin have different consequences
 - Not necessarily before God—because all sin, no matter how great or how small we

may think they are, all sin separates us from God and His holiness

- However, some sins have different physical, emotional, spiritual, communal consequences to them
- Paul here, says that sexual sin is in a unique category because the one who sins sexually is sinning against their own body
 - So there are unique effects of this kind of sin that has damaging repercussions
- Jude points to what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah as an example of what can happen in a sexually immoral culture
 - And it wasn't just their sexual immorality that was a problem:
 - Ezekiel says ***"Sodom's sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door. She was proud and committed detestable sins, so I wiped her out, as you have seen."*** -Ezekiel 16:49-50 (ESV)
- Some people take that passage to make the argument, "See! It wasn't because of their sexual immorality, it was because they didn't have any social justice!"
 - Which would take scripture out of context of scripture. Really this shows the effects that self-indulgence can have on an entire society.
- They were destroyed by fire from heaven, which serves as an example as what can happen to us spiritually
- Paul says in Galatians ***"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things***

will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

-Galatians 5:19-22 (ESV)

- Now many translations will say those who “do” such things will not inherit the kingdom of God, which is a very poor translation
 - Because we all have done something on this list, every single one of us
 - However, there is a big difference between *doing* something and *practicing* something
 - Whenever you practice something, you are doing something continually and intentionally for the purpose of getting better at it
 - And if that is your approach to sin, you do not have the spirit of God and you will not inherit the Kingdom of God
- Which is why Jude so heavily emphasizes how dangerous it is to follow any teaching that would encourage you to practice immorality, especially sexual immorality because it can destroy you and entire societies!
 - Whenever it is accepted, encouraged, and promoted to practice sexual immorality, there are incredibly damaging effects to the individual and to society as a whole.
- God has a specific design for sex that is laid out clearly for us in scripture.
 - According to Genesis 6 and Matthew 19, sex is to be reserved for the covenant relationship of a life-long marriage between one man and one woman.
 - It is to be exclusive between only that one man and one woman that reflects Christ’s covenantal commitment to the church (Eph 5)
 - It’s purpose is to unite the two as one and fill the earth through procreation (Gen 1:28)
 - It is designed to be a sacred, self-giving practice not a selfish, self-gratifying practice
- Now, imagine with me for a second, what would our world look like, if everyone followed God’s design for sex?

- You see there are so many issues and topics that we love to get up in arms about and debate but very rarely do I hear anyone arguing for God's original design for sex.
- Why? Because sexual immorality has been so accepted, encouraged, and promoted in our society that we don't even think to argue that issue
- But my question is, how many of those other issues would be solved, if we just followed God's design in this one?
- Just for fun, I asked Chat GPT, "What would society look like in America, if everyone followed the Biblical design for sex?"
 - *That's a really rich and thought-provoking question — and one that theologians, ethicists, and sociologists have often explored. If we imagine a society in which everyone in America genuinely followed the Biblical design for sex — not just outwardly obeying rules, but inwardly living out God's*

intent for sexuality — the results would ripple through nearly every part of culture.

• **Family and Social Stability**

- Stable households: *Marriages would be lifelong, faithful, and nurturing environments for children.*
- Lower divorce and fatherlessness rates: *The ripple effects on child well-being, education, and emotional health would be immense.*
- Children raised by both biological parents: *Decades of research link this to lower poverty, crime, and dropout rates.*

• **Sexual Integrity and Personal Wholeness**

- No pornography industry: *Because sex wouldn't be commodified, billions of dollars and countless lives wouldn't be consumed by addiction, objectification, or trafficking.*
- Dignity for women and men: *Both would be valued as image-bearers, not as sexual products.*

- Healing from shame: Instead of hidden guilt or exploitation, sexuality would be celebrated in holy intimacy and mutual joy.
- Freedom from abuse: Consent, faithfulness, and covenantal love would render sexual violence and manipulation virtually nonexistent.
- **Public Health and Emotional Well-Being**
 - Dramatic drop in STDs and abortions: Because sex would occur within marriage, these would be rare or eliminated.
 - Less anxiety, depression, and loneliness: A culture that values faithful intimacy and belonging would nurture emotional stability.
 - Reduced substance abuse: Much sexual sin and its fallout are tied to escapism, which would greatly diminish.
- **Culture, Media, and the Arts**
 - Beauty without exploitation: Art, music, and film would celebrate covenantal love, not casual eroticism.
- Advertising would change radically: The economy wouldn't rely on sexual imagery to sell products.
- Stories would exalt fidelity and love: Media would focus on restoration, reconciliation, and truth, rather than romantic chaos or scandal.
- **Spiritual and Communal Renewal**
 - Church and community as moral centers: Worship, mentorship, and discipleship would thrive because people's private lives would align with their faith.
 - Reconciliation of genders: Men and women would see each other as partners in God's mission, not rivals or objects.
 - Peaceful society: As sexual sin often fuels violence, jealousy, betrayal, and injustice, a chaste culture would be far more peaceful.
- **Economics and Society**
 - Less poverty: Two-parent households generally double economic stability; father

absence and family fragmentation are among the strongest predictors of poverty.

- More responsible stewardship: Families would tend to live with purpose and moderation, viewing wealth as a tool for service rather than indulgence.
- Fewer social service burdens: With stronger families and lower rates of crime, abuse, and abandonment, public welfare systems would be vastly smaller.
- *In short, the home — not social programs — would again become society's strongest stabilizing institution.*
- Few things have contributed as much to the mental health crisis, poverty, and the breakdown of the family in America than the widespread rejection of God's design for sex and marriage.
- College students, young adults, high schoolers....if you want to make an impact on the society around you in a positive way, stop having sex, don't do it again if you have been

until you get married, and only have sex with that person for the rest of your life

- Be a person of commitment, consistency, and character...and the more homes that we build that way, the more that we can impact a society by living within God's design
- Because if we keep going in this direction, things are just going to get worse
- As Jude encouraged the believers... be on guard, defend against any teacher, professor, or influencer that will tell you to indulge yourself, to do whatever you feel is right, to be free with your body
- It will only lead to your personal harm and the harm of the world around you
 - Paul says, **"But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."**
-1 Corinthians 9:27 (ESV)
- The reason why the enemy wants us to have a sexualized society, and our children exposed

to it as soon as possible because it will lead to so much mental, spiritual, and emotional confusion and make it difficult for us to know who we really are and Who our creator is and what His best is for us.

- Paul writes to the Romans and in chapter 1 he talks about a sexually immoral culture that has been surrounding them, and he says: ***“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” -Romans 1:28-32 (ESV)***

- Which leads to the next thing that Jude tells us to defend against, and that is:

- WE PLAY DEFENSE AGAINST: THOSE WHO DEFY GOD’S AUTHORITY

- **“Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.” -Jude 8**
- There are teachers and influences out there that try to make themselves equal with or superior to God’s authority
 - There are teachers that make their “revelation” equivalent to God’s Word
 - There are those, and even back then that Jude was referring to, that were claiming or trying to exercise spiritual authority in their own power.
 - They claimed to have authority of spiritual beings

- And Jude defends against that thinking, and even gives an example of when Michael the archangel was contending with Satan, he didn't say "You vile, evil creature, I rebuke you!"
- No, he said, "The Lord rebuke you."
 - Even Michael, who Jude calls "one the mightiest of the angels" didn't try to fight in his own power or claim spiritual authority
 - No, even he deferred to where the real authority was
- I hear "Christian" leaders all of the time say things like, "Well you won't read this is the bible but...."
 - Now I firmly believe that God still speaks to His people and reveals things to His people today
 - But I also firmly believe that whatever is spoken and revealed to us will always line up and be affirmed in Scripture
- And we have to be able to defend against any teachings in our churches that would not line up with or submit to the authority of God's Holy Word
- And Jude has some strong language for teachers like this. He says in verse 10: ***"But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction. What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion. When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord's love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that***

are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots. They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.” -Jude 10-13 (NLT)

- There's a lot there that we don't have time to break down, but simply put, we must defend against those who claim their own spiritual authority, claim authority over you, or encourage you to claim ultimate authority over yourself
- God is the ultimate authority over us, over our homes, and over our churches, over our nation, and over this world!
 - And we must defend against anyone and anything that would teach us otherwise
 - Anything that would contradict when John the Baptist said that, “He must increase, I must decrease,” cannot be apart of our churches

- But these teachers exist in order to do the third thing that Jude encourages us to defend against:

- ***“These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want. But you, my dear friends, must remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ predicted. They told you that in the last times there would be scoffers whose purpose in life is to satisfy their ungodly desires. These people are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They follow their natural instincts because they do not have God’s Spirit in them.” -Jude 16-19 (NLT)***

- WE PLAY DEFENSE AGAINST: THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISION

- We live in a day and age where everything around us seeks to divide us.

- We live in a society that wants us divided socially, by gender, racially, ethnically, religiously, politically, philosophically
- And we are told to form an opinion, stick to that opinion, and demonize anyone who doesn't share our opinion
- And too often we allow that divisive mentality to worms its way into the church
- And God loves His church, and He wants to grow His church
- He loves to add to His church, His favorite way is to multiple His church, He will at times subtract from His church in order to help it grow healthier...but the one aspect of God's math that He will never condone in His church is division
- This is why in Proverbs 6, there is a list of 7 things that are an abomination to the Lord: and the last one that is listed, I like the way that NIV puts it best, it says what the Lord hates and is detestable to Him, is ***“There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are***

detestable to him...when a person stirs up conflict in the community.” -Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV)

- God wants His church to be a beacon of unity in the midst of a divided world.
- Therefore we must defend our church against whatever would seek to divide us
- However, what we have to make sure that we get right is— HOW we play defense
- And Jude tells us exactly how during final portion of this letter:
- ***“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” -Jude 20-21 (ESV)***
- So here are 4 ways for us to play defense:
- **WE PLAY DEFENSE BY: CONTINUING TO BUILD**

- There is never a point in time where we should stop growing in our faith
 - There should never be a point in time where we stop learning
 - We are to keep building up our faith
 - That term building means, “To make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher”
- We can never be content with how much faith we have, we must always seek more
 - The very moment we think that we have arrived, or that we have gained enough wisdom, is there very moment we will fall and be foolish
 - Always remember: *“The wise continually seek wisdom, fools think that they have already found it.”*
 - And Jude says that a way that we build up our faith is by praying in the Spirit, which is another way that we play defense:

- WE PLAY DEFENSE BY: SEEKING GOD’S PERSPECTIVE

- The term ‘*praying in the Spirit*’ means that we are acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is the power in which we get to pray in the first place
 - And it is an intentional kind of prayer in which we are asking for the Lord’s guidance
 - Intentionally seeking the Lord’s perspective and asking Him to allow us to see things the way that He sees them
- In a day and age where we are constantly being forced to form quick opinions and choose sides instantly, what we are to do as Christians, is defend against that by waiting on the Lord to show us His perspective.
 - We are to slow down, in any situation or controversy, and intentionally ask the Lord, “What do you think about this?”
 - And then take the time to actually listen.

- Because sometimes the Lord likes to slow you down and take His time revealing His heart to you about certain issues...but we have to be willing to wait for His leading, no matter what
- And we will be more apt to do that if we follow the next way we play defense, which is:
 - **WE PLAY DEFENSE BY: KEEPING OURSELVES IN HIS LOVE**
 - That word, “keep” in the original language means “to preserve”
 - The best way that we preserve ourselves in this life of faith, is to continually remind ourselves and define ourselves by the Love of God
 - We have too many Christians that are told about their sin more so than who they are as a Loved Child of God
 - We have Christians policing each other more than encouraging each other
- That’s why we have every single person that gets baptized here acknowledge that “You are no longer defined by your sin, but made new in His love.”
- How we define ourselves is so important because how we define ourselves will determine where we set the bar for our lives
 - And there is no higher bar to set for your life that a Beloved Child of God
 - Because when I set the bar for my life there, when the time comes where I do sin, when I do fall short, I will be more apt to recognize that is not who I am, and I will repent and refuse to make that sin a regular practice in my life!
- When Paul prays for the Ephesians in Chapter 3
- He prays that we, ***“may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes***

knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” -Ephesians 3:18-19 (NKJV)

- Do you want to be filled with God? Do you want to experience the fullness of God in your life?? THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU!!
- *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (John 15:13 NKJV)...and that's what Jesus did for you and for me!!*
- When we try everything we can to wrap our minds around how deeply and truly Jesus loves us, it's changes EVERYTHING and RE-IDENTIFIES us!
- Because when to come to accept the love of Jesus, no matter if you have been sexually immoral, no matter if you have led a life contrary to God's Word, no matter how far you have fallen in this broken life, you are No longer defined by old self, but you are rather

defined by what Jesus has done and His love for you

- And whenever we recognize that for ourselves, we will also be more apt to recognize that for others as well.
- Jude goes on to say: ***“And you must show mercy to those whose faith is wavering. Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives.” -Jude 22-23 (NLT)***
- **WE PLAY DEFENSE BY: SHOWING COMPASSION**
 - That word “Mercy” used in this passage can also be translated “compassion”
- Contrary to what some might tell you, living out the Christian life isn't easy
 - It is very difficult at times to not give in to self indulgence, or to submit every aspects of our lives to the Authority of God

- It's easy to jump into the controversy and be a part of the division
- Its easier to be consumed with our past mistakes and can grow weary in the constant strive to grow in our faith
- But that's why we need a compassionate church body that will come along side of us whenever we allow doubt to creep in and our faith begins to waiver
- That's why we need each other to hold us up when we are weak and then to hold up others when we get stronger
- Because we are all going to go through a rollercoaster throughout this Christian life
- We are all going to have our ups and we are going to have our downs and we are all going to need that rescuing that Jude talks about at one point or another
- That word **“rescue”** in the original language literally means: **(sōzō)** **“to save from the**

evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance”

- There are things and influences all around us that are going to try to obstruct us from the full message of Jesus and we need each other to remind each other:
 - Yea you messed up, “But there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus”
 - You are not defined by your past because, “If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation!”
 - You had a bad moment, but “His mercies are new every morning! He removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west!”
 - I know it feels like you keep doing the right things but nothing seems to be going the right way, but God's Word says, “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Cling to that promise!

- You may feel like you're the only one struggling like this, but the Bible says, "No temptation has overtaken you which is not common to humanity, but with each temptation He always provides a way of escape."
- There are so many things that will cause us to be restless in our spiritual lives, but Jude says we are to show mercy "to still" each other
 - To help still each other's spirits, calm each other down with the truth
 - But he says to do so cautiously, because in our attempt to be compassionate we cannot, at the same time, condone sinful behavior.
- There is a fine line between accepting and condoning
 - Society will tell you that they are one in the same, but they are not
 - While we were yet sinners Christ died for us
 - He was willing to accept us, when He did not condone our behavior
- But His acceptance was the avenue to our path to change the behavior that He did not condone.
- So when your Christian brother or Christian sister is struggling, do not condemn them, have compassion on them! Tell them the Truth in Love! Lift them up! Build them up! Remind them of who they are, and point them to praise like Jude did to finish out this letter!
- CALL BAND
- ***"Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to Him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are His before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen."***
-Jude 24-25 (NLT)
- THAT'S MY KING

- My King is the One who keep's me from falling away
- My King is the One that keeps my feet from stumbling
- My King is One who brings me great joy
- My King is the One who brings me into His presence!
- My King is the One who has all the Glory!
- My King is the One who has always had all of the Power and Authority
- He has all of the Power and Authority right now!
- And He will always have all of the Power and Authority over My life, over My home, and over THIS CHURCH FOR ALL TIME!
- Come on, let's stand to our feet!
- You want to play some defense against the enemies of hell, well how about we do that by giving our King the Praise and the

Worship and Glory that He and He alone Deserves!!