

# POINTE•MEN

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH MEN'S MINISTRY

***"Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people."***

**- Jude 3**

## **Contend for the Faith**

**A 3-Week Study on the Epistle of Jude**

### **Week 3: Steadfast Determination**

J. R. R. Tolkien, the esteemed author behind the literary masterpiece, Lord of the Rings, did not regard its main protagonist, Frodo Baggins to be the "chief hero," but rather his humble and loyal companion, Samwise Gamgee. While Frodo was tasked with bearing the weight of the One Ring's corrupting influence, it was Sam's steadfast determination and moral uprightness that steered them through the trials of their arduous journey. When the ring bearer could go no further, it was Sam who shouldered the burden, physically carrying Frodo up the treacherous slopes of Mount Doom to their destination where the ring would finally be destroyed.

Samwise Gamgee's integrity and perseverance in aiding Frodo against the One Ring's corrupting power exemplifies Jude's counsel in his letter to stand firm against the corrupting influences of false teachings within their faith communities. Sam's steadfast commitment mirrors Jude's guidance for believers to anchor themselves in their most holy faith and pray in the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. Believers are encouraged to uplift each other, especially those whose faith wavers due to deceptive tactics of false teachers. By clinging steadfastly to God's truth and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance, Christians can effectively navigate the challenges posed by false doctrines and destructive ideologies, collectively striving to guide one another towards the safety of God's redemptive truth.

Jude outlines four key practices to effectively contend for the faith. First, he advises believers to uphold the teachings of the apostles, emphasizing the importance of preserving the doctrines transmitted through them and recorded in Scripture. Second, he encourages building themselves up in the most holy faith, cultivating spiritual growth and maturity through a deepening understanding of God's truth. Third, Jude urges believers to pray in the Holy Spirit, highlighting the necessity of relying on God's guidance and strength in combating false teachings. Finally, he urges believers to keep themselves in God's love, fostering a secure and unshakeable foundation for their faith. These practices are essential for believers to resist the influence of false teachings and remain grounded in the truth of God's Word.

# Questions To Consider

## Read Jude 1:17-25

1. What are the signs of a divisive person and why is it important to identify them? (vv. 17-19) *see Romans 16:17-18; 2 Peter 3:3-7*
2. How can we guard against being swayed by worldly desires and divisive individuals within the Christian community? (v. 19) *see 1 John 2:15-17*
3. What does it mean to pray in the Power of the Holy Spirit? (v. 20) *see Romans 8:26-27*
4. How do we go about building each other up in the faith and how does that keep us safe in God's love? (vv. 20-21) *see Hebrews 10:24-25*
5. Why is it important to be cautious when showing mercy to those whose faith is wavering? (v. 22-23) *see Galatians 6:1*
6. Why do you suppose Jude emphasized hating the sins that contaminate their lives? (v. 23) *see Psalm 97:10; Romans 12:9*
7. What is the significance of honoring and glorifying God in relation to standing firm in our faith? (vv. 24-25) *see 1 Peter 5:6-7; Psalm 145:18*