

Transforming Daily
“... contend earnestly for the faith ...”
Jude 3b.

What does it mean to contend? It can literally mean to fight, or it can mean simply to give attention to. In this application, the word “contend” is modified by the word “earnestly.” What Jude is saying to the early believers is for them to give genuine, deliberate, consecrated, and undivided attention to the matters of the faith. Oversimplified he is telling them not to let their guard down nor allow any ground to be given to the false teachings of the false teachers against the truth of the gospel. Believe it or not, as confrontational as Jude sounds, these are words of encouragement for the early believers.

The “faith” here is not specifically addressing “faith” (Hebrews 11:1), but refers to the system of belief known as Christianity. There is faith and *the* faith. Faith exercised by one who believes that God, by grace, has offered His Son as their substitutionary atonement is how that one is received into *the* faith. So in light of this distinction, Jude is saying in a manner of speaking, fervently preach and teach the gospel of truth especially in the face of false teachers and their heretical teachings!

The message is no different for today’s believers. We are to fervently preach and teach the truth of the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). There is no shortage of false teachers and heretical teachings in our day. Worldwide there might even be more of it today than in the time of the early church. There certainly seems to be more contention against the church today than what is recorded in the bible in the church of the first century. Nevertheless, the message is still relevant.

Are you aware of the spirit of antichrist? Do you sense the contention of the world against the church? Have you put on the armor for spiritual warfare that is described in Ephesians 6:10-18? Keep in mind, believers do not wrestle against flesh and blood for the cause of Christ, and **NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE IS THE CHRISTIAN TOLD TO TAKE PHYSICAL VENGEANCE AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF GOD OR RETALIATE PHYSICALLY FOR ANY SPIRITUAL OR NATURAL VIOLATION AGAINST GOD, HIS PEOPLE, OR HIS WORD.** With this in mind, heed the message of Jude, and contend earnestly for the faith.