

Week 40
273/92

Transforming Daily
“... not having the Spirit ...”
Jude 19

It is extremely harmful to all involved when a church is divided. The New Testament talks quite a bit about the potential dangers of factions and divisiveness, and in many cases, the culprits themselves are named, and in other cases, their characteristics are described. Splits and closures of churches due to divisions among church members do not glorify God and are not His will for “missions and church planting.” Church factions, fractures, and failures come from two sources, selfishness and Satan. Scripture is clear that when churches experience such turmoil it is due to an attack from selfish individuals, believers and non-believers alike, from the inside, and/or an attack on the church by Satan from the outside.

In the text here in Jude, he tells us exactly who it is that is causing the factions and divisions. He identifies them throughout the letter in many graphic descriptions. But here, theologically, Jude identifies them as “not having the Spirit.” Who does not have the Spirit? The lost person, the unregenerate sinner is who does not have the Spirit. That doesn’t mean that everyone who is lost will cause divisions and strife, nor does it mean that everyone who causes factions and conflict is an unbeliever. However, the natural man bears the propensity and sometimes the desire to control his environment through division and separation. And when wicked men who have crept into the church subversively and unaware are present their single purpose and only goal is to undermine the faith and confidence of true believers.

All of us need to be aware of our own character in the service of Christ and with other believers. But more importantly the believer needs to be aware of the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit in his or her life. The church can count on being assaulted by the whiles of the devil, but there is no excuse for brothers and sisters in Christ to be at each others’ throats. As we see the day of the Lord approaching, let every believer develop a heart-touch sensitive discipline to the direction and guidance of God.

Are you holding anything against a brother or sister in Christ? Have you been or are you now at odds with a group of believers in the church? Do you steer clear of potential factions and divisions? Based on your present Christian conduct would anyone accuse you of not having the Spirit?