

Keep the Faith

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Jude 14-16 *It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” 16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an* advantage.

Jude 17-19 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

- Jesus warned us that His followers would face trials and even persecution
- John 15:20 If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...
- Guest: Joe Hall – Director of International Christian Response
- The Mission of ICR: **Mobilize spiritual and material support to encourage persecuted Christians to persevere and proclaim the Gospel.**

What can we do to share the common plight of the persecuted Christians in the world?

- Be informed.
- Be concerned.
- Be involved.
 - Prayer
 - Giving - <https://christianresponse.org/give/>

While we should be thankful for all of God’s provisions and blessings, the real focus of our gratitude goes much deeper. Look how Jude addressed it:

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

Instead of focusing on the opposition, we are to focus on the Lord. Instead of being consumed with spiritual warfare, we are to be consumed with the love of God.

Psalm 16:5-6 The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. 6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.