

The Faith Once for All Delivered to the Saints

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 1:3)

I was looking at the word *faith* and how people in the clergy always say things like, “To contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” That would mean for them, of course, the creeds and doctrine. But what Jude said has nothing to do with doctrines. Faith is not a matter of “correct” doctrines.

Faith, if we will look at the word rightly, is being persuaded by our Father to do what we were created to do (Eph 2:10). It is the faith to love our brother (1 Jn 3:14-17). If we are doing that, then certainly we will be bestowed with the right understanding of the Word (Jn 14:21,23). We will have the right understanding of what our Master, Paul, and the other apostles meant. But Christians don’t know this, for their “faith” goes back to the church councils.¹ Those apostates would take what they already knew from the first century and bring it into focus in a certain way, and then call upon the people to memorize the creeds they came up with and repeat them. If you were baptized and could recite those creeds, it meant you were saved and going to heaven.

Jude 1:3 simply means to earnestly contend for the persuasion that was once for all delivered to the believers. Once that faith was delivered, as in Acts 2:42, what happened? They sat at the apostles’ feet and they had *koinonia*. Then of course, all who believed were together and had all things in common. Why do people live in communities for a while and then it all falls apart? It is because they don’t have faith. Faith is the persuasion from the Holy Spirit to love and to do the good works we were created to do. If we live in community apart from faith it is sin (Rom 14:23). If it is from

¹ There were seven ecumenical (or universal) councils of the church (before it divided east and west); they were held in Nicea, 325 AD (from which came the Nicene Creed and the dating of Easter); Constantinople, 381 AD; Ephesus, 431 AD (from which came the doctrine of “Mary, the mother of God”); Chalcedon, 451 AD; Constantinople, 533 AD; Constantinople, 680-681 AD; Nicea, 787 AD (veneration of holy images).

faith it is not self-promotion. Faith is promoting our Master Yahshua. Most people don't know what faith is. Faith is the persuasion that comes from our Master Yahshua. It is as Paul said, "Faith comes by hearing the truth."

Faith makes people believe *and* trust in Messiah.² They know in their heart that He died for their own sins, and they can confess from their own heart that He rose again. Then they can live in community, when they can make that confession. It would be legalistic without that, requiring all kinds of rules and regulations written all over the walls.

"Beloved, I gave all diligence to write to you about the common salvation..." *Common* there is approaching the meaning of the word *koinonia*.³ The first faith that was delivered to them created community. If you have faith it is impossible not to live in community. Why did we start living in community? We couldn't do anything else, once we started being saved. We did not want to go home. That is what it means to have faith.

Koinonia (#2842⁴) means communication, distribution — that is what faith is, fellowship. *Koinonia* is to share everything you have with your brothers and sisters. It is not just possessions, but it is even the reason why we come together with one another morning and evening. If you have faith, of course, you are going to understand the word properly. Faith comes by hearing, and that is what Jude 1:3 means — the persuasion that you received that caused you to believe in our Master Yahshua and love your brothers and sisters.

² Jn 2:23-24, where many *believed* (#4100) in Him but where He was not *entrusting* (#4100) Himself to them, for He knew what was in their hearts. #4100 means to have faith in, entrust, commit, and put in trust with.

³ It is #2839, *koinos* (probably from 4862); common, i.e., (literally) shared by all or several.

⁴ *Koinonia* in verses like Acts 2:42 and 1 Jn 1:3 is #2842, (from 2844) and meaning partnership, i.e., (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction; (to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship.

For Christians, faith is just doctrine. So, I wanted to clarify that word *faith* in Jude 1:3. #4102 comes from #3982⁵ — “No one can come to me unless the Father persuades him, draws him” (Jn 6:44), and “all who believed were together and had all things in common” (Acts 2:44). That is what the faith first delivered to the saints did — it brought people to Messiah in His real, corporeal, and non-mystical Body.

When Peter was making that great appeal to the people of Israel, three thousand received faith, and the result of that was how they lived in Acts 2 and 4 — that is the pattern until our Master returns. If you go off that pattern you are not long upon the Rock. You are just another religion. Christianity is not better than Islam, and as a matter of fact, they are the ones who made the Muslims so mad. Was God telling Christianity to wage the Crusades and murder, killing people all down through the ages? Was God giving faith to the Pope to make those decrees?

Christianity is no better than any other religion. All religion is useless that doesn't enable you to bridle your tongue and care for the widows and orphans (Jms 1:26-27). Love your neighbor as yourself (Mk 12:31). We have brothers and sisters in the Body that need to be cared for. We give them that care. We love them as we love ourselves. We give them what they need, not what they want, for that is what love is. Joshua can take that to Canada and share it in the minchah.

Elliot — We all share what we have at the gatherings. It is representative of our entire life that we do. It is like it says in Lk 14:33, “No one of you can be My disciple unless he gives up all his own possessions.” One of the things we possess is faith, and so we let it out in the minchah. So, if our Father is persuading us with revelation here and there, and we share it, it is like watering the soil. It is constantly giving out.

⁵ #4102 is (from 3982) and it means persuasion, i.e., credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Messiah for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself; assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity. And #3982 is a primary verb meaning to convince; by analogy, to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflexively or passively, to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty); agree, assure, believe, have confidence, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

Faith is received by listening when others are talking.

Jeremiah — The way religion is means you don't even have to have faith. Just say a few words and you are saved. I heard an argument between two people, and one was trying to get the other to say what he would not say, which was "I believe in Jesus." It was as if, all of sudden, that was faith, "Just say yes," he was saying.

But that is not persuasion. Persuasion is what has to be upon you to say, "I am going to give it up all. I don't want it. I am going to love my brothers." This is what it takes to live in the Body, to take care of your brothers. You have to be persuaded to leave yourself behind you, and then you go forward and do it.

Yoceph Daniel — Even the evil one knows that many of the "doctrines and creeds" have words that are true, but he doesn't put his faith in our Master because of them... "You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder!" (Jms 2:19). We believe that if our Master rose from the dead then His words must have weight. We want to listen to Him and obey His words. His words will teach us how to rise from the dead. What else could we do but obey Him if He rose from the dead?

Natan — In Acts 2 when Peter was crying out to the crowds, that was grace coming to them. The proof that they received faith was that they came to live together and shared everything they had. People today talk about faith, but until they are put in community and are tested, they cannot tell whether faith really came to them. Then they find out whether they can really love their brothers.

I was listening to a man reading 1 Jn 3, which talks about love and laying down your life for your brothers, and he interjected, "Don't forget, it is your personal relationship with Christ that matters." That is just brainwashing. I am thankful that the gospel is going to go out. It is pure and will be demonstrated by people living it. Hab 2:4 says a righteous man will live by his faith. That is how I want to be.

Wonderful!

Chets Barur — Without keeping our mind on the Spirit, there is no way we can judge idle words and what spirit we are in communion with. When our minds are stayed on Him, He keeps us in perfect peace (Isa 26:3). We have to be here for our Master. A lot of people ask us, like that man asked Asher last night, "What do you do for fun?" and Asher answered him, "It is fun to lay down our lives for one another."

We are here by faith. That is why we came together and stayed together in the beginning. We didn't know what we were doing, like following some kind of plan for how the community should grow and develop. Faith had been ministered to them, and to love and share all they had with one another was all they wanted to do. The people who have left over the years did so because they didn't have faith. We are being persuaded more and more as we go. I am thankful that our Father is establishing a nation built on faith. We can do nothing apart from the grace and faith that comes from our Father.

The faith and mercy we have received leads us to establish places where the lost and lonely people can come to, the communities of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Faith has persuaded the disciples at the beginning. It even persuaded Peter to get up and preach. It persuaded them to share everything they had. I don't share that way with my brothers many times. It doesn't just mean having a common purse, as though our living together takes care of that verse, but it means being one and having constant interaction with one another. Like it says, "Whoever has been given and doesn't share it with others, even what he has will be taken from him."

A Last Word

This evening we honored Joshua, who was traveling to Gad for a time, and different people honored him for his character, his diligence, and his overcoming his weakness, which is public speaking. Yônêq added this when we were done:

If any man among you seems to be religious, and does not bridle his tongue (Jms 1:26), then his religion is useless. So, it is a good quality Joshua has, and one we all have to have, which is to control, to bridle our tongues.