

Thriving in Times of Spiritual Chaos

Jude 20-21

Intro How can we survive and thrive in times of apostasy spiritual chaos?

- 1) Remember the Apostolic warnings about false teachers 17-19
- 2) Remain in the sphere where we experience God's love 20-21
- 3) Reach out to those ensnared in false teaching 22-23
- 4) Trust the power of the sovereign God 24-25

I. The Primary Charge: "Keep yourselves in the love of God" 21a

A. The Meaning of "Keeping Ourselves"

- i. Not a denial that God keeps us (Jude 1:24; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:5) and not a command to "keep ourselves saved" (Jn 6:39).
- ii. Means to remain in the sphere of fellowship and obedience where we practically experience God's love

B. Summarizing Words that explain "Keeping Ourselves"

- i. **Obedience** Jn 14:23; 15:9-10
- ii. **Fellowship**

II. The Supporting instructions explaining *how* to continue in the love of God

- These are the three "ING verbs" in the text

A. **By Building:** Pursue spiritual growth in the word of God. 20a

- i. Acts 20:32
- ii. Jn 17:17
- iii. 1 Pet 2:2
- iv. 2 Tim 3:16-17

B. **By Praying:** continue in prayer that is empowered by the Spirit and consistent with the Spirit's will. 20b

- i. Spirit *empowered* as opposed to mechanical or apathetic
- ii. *Consistent* with the revealed inspired will of the Spirit

C. **By Waiting:** eagerly focus on Christ's return. 21b

- i. Waiting with eager anticipation! Acts 24:15; Tit 2:13
- ii. We will see Christ again! Jn 14:1-2; Jn 17:24;
- iii. Glorified bodies and the final completion of eternal life! Phil 3:20-21; 1 Pet 1:5