



Part 2: Spiritual Training

Jude 1-4, 17-25

*We combat cold love by spiritual practices
to keep our love alive and growing.*

I. Keeping Our Love Alive (Matthew 24:12-13)

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 24:12-13

Jesus exhorts us to vigilance against the temptation of allowing our love to grow cold.

“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.” Jude 20-21

The dynamic of entropy = gradual decline into disorder – applies to us spiritually as well.

II. Jude: Author and Context

A. Author

Almost certainly Jesus’ little brother (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3).

- Apologetic for the resurrection of Jesus.

B. Context

False teachers/prophets have infiltrated the church (Jude 3-4, 17-19).

- Predicted by Jesus (Matthew 7:15)
- A constant problem in the church (Acts 20:30; 1 John 2:18)
- Reject authority
- Create division

- Promote a theology of cheap grace leading to immorality (Jude 4).

“We have largely lost any sense of the diabolical nature of false teaching and have become as dulled to the distinction between truth and falsehood as we have to the distinction between right and wrong in behavior.” – Michael Green

III. **Two Truths in the Christian Life**

- A. God’s Call, Love and Power to Preserve His People (Jude 1-2, 24-25)
- B. Our Responsibility to Persevere/Stand Firm (Jude 20-21)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
Philippians 2:12-13

C. Spiritual Practices

1. Orthodox Teaching (Jude 20) – see recommended books
2. Pray in the Spirit (Jude 20) – led by Word and Spirit
3. Keep yourselves in God’s love (Jude 21; John 15:9-10).

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” John 15:9-10

Ex. Marriage: The obligations of love are not the conditions of love.

Spiritual practices work on our hearts indirectly by embodying the practices of Jesus (see resources).

4. Help one another persevere; we are the temple of God now (Jude v. 20, 22-23).

IV. **Centrality of Love** (Matthew 22:34-40; John 21:15)

Jesus’ question to Peter: “Do you love me?”

Mere belief is never enough. The goal is agape love.

V. **Our Morning Prayer (see below)**

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Jude 1-4. Do you think you have seen or heard of false teachers in the American Church? How do you recognize them? What do you think it means to “change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord”?
2. What do you think of the possibility of “spiritual entropy” meaning our love for the Lord will grow cold and disordered without our intentional effort to combat it?
3. Look at Jude’s commands in verses 20-21. What do you think each of these commands mean? Was anything in the sermon helpful?
4. Doug’s main point in the sermon is this: *We combat cold love by spiritual practices to keep our love alive and growing.*
What are your thoughts about this? Do you follow any practices that help you do this?
5. What do you think of the “Morning Prayer” we are offering for us at Greenwood? Are you willing to try it daily?

Resources:

1. Our Morning Prayer (see below).
2. Practices of Jesus (greenwoodcc.com/resources).
3. Practices of Jesus Audio Devotions (greenwood email & social media).
4. Phone Apps to help:
 - a. Lectio 360
 - b. Pause/30 Days to Resilience (Ransomed Heart Ministries)
5. Books on basic Christian Doctrine:
 - a. *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer
 - b. *Basic Christianity* by John Stott
 - c. *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden
 - d. *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne Grudem

Our Morning Prayer

Good morning, Father.

Thank you that I am your beloved child.

Thank you for the gift of this day.

Fill me with your light, love, and life that I may rejoice in it.

Good morning, Jesus.

Thank you for my union with you.

Keep me attentive to your Presence this day and lead me as my Teacher and Guide.

*Good morning, Holy Spirit.
Thank you for living in me.
Fill me today with your Presence so that I may live and
minister in You.*

*Triune God, I love you.
Today may I joyfully live in your Kingdom and show it to
others. Amen.*