Last session Jude made the transition from the burning denunciation of apostates in v8-16, to the preparation of the believers for their necessary struggles beginning in v17. The believers must be prepared and remember the words of the apostles…believers must understand there will be mockers that will ensure their own worldly desires are fulfilled. These scoffers will attempt to divide the body and don’t have the HS within them.

So v17-19 lays a foundation for the believers that begins with remembering the words of the apostles…knowing the word of God…it’s interesting to me that way back in the 1st century, Jude is telling us to know our Bible…why, because we have to be able to identify false doctrine during the last days…the days between Christ’s ascension and his return…there will be mockers that proclaim the truth of Christ ‘with a twist’…it will sound a lot like the gospel, but will add or take away or modify the truth somehow. And believers everywhere need to know the word of God to be able to combat such heresy…to be able, as Jude puts it in v23, ‘save others by snatching them out of the fire’. I think we can all agree, the more we study and meditate on God’s word, the better off our spiritual walk will be.

So v17-19 tells us to recall the word of God…and v20-21 tells us pray in the HS.

v20 –

**But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.**

You however, beloved, building up yourselves, in the most holy of you faith in [the] Spirit Holy praying;

So Jude wants us to be built up by praying in the HS…he wants us to build ourselves up…build our own faith up…by praying according to the HS’s will. This makes a lot of sense to me. First, Jude wants us to know God’s word (which tells us, generally speaking, God’s will), then he wants us to praying according to the will of God…and the result will be a built up faith. I can see why this would build my faith…since praying inside God’s will normally means I’ll see His will manifest in me and it was exactly what I was praying for. That means I would experience God on a personal and meaningful level…what better way to build faith!

*You however, beloved, building up yourselves, in the most holy of you faith in [the] Spirit Holy praying –*

*Write down your findings regarding ‘building up’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *epo-ikod-o-meó*, which means ‘to build upon a foundation’ or ‘to finish a structure for which a foundation has already been laid’.

OK. What foundation has already been laid? Paul certainly thinks Jesus Christ is our foundation. 1 Co 3:10-15 –

*By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. 14If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

So Jude wants us to build on the foundation that is Jesus Christ. He wants us to build up on that foundation and grow in faith in Christ through prayer in the HS. This same word is used by Paul in Col 2:6-7 –

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

So Paul says we are to live our lives *in* Jesus Christ…Jude says we are to pray *in* the HS…there is a lot of ‘*in’* this and ‘in’ that going on in these verses…I’d like to know more about what it looks like to pray in the HS or live in Christ. I think the latter is a little easier to explain since Paul gives an example in the same verse he states it in…he says just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord…continue to live your lives in him…rooted and built up in him…strengthened in the faith as you were taught…result…overflowing with thankfulness.

WOW! Paul is sounding like Jude…live life in Christ…rooted and built up in him…strengthened in the faith. Jude states be built up in the faith by praying in the HS…it’s almost as if they’re saying the same thing except they’re using HS and Jesus interchangeably. And whether your reading Jude 20 or Col 2:6, the foundation is the completed work of Christ…and we are to build on that foundation.

*Write down your findings regarding ‘praying’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is *pros-eucho-mai*, which is understood to mean ‘pray’. But if you take the literal Greek origins and their meanings…the word for prayer can actually be broken down in the following manner: *pros* – to exchange…and *euxomai* – to wish or pray. So, the actual roots mean ‘to *interact with* the Lord by switching human *wishes* (ideas) for *His wishes* as He imparts faith (or "divine *persuasion*")’.

I’ve never ever understood prayer like this before. Most of my prayers include requests that God’s will be done…but they are also infiltrated with my ideas. I am actually relieved, in a sense, to know that the apostles described prayer as interacting with God so as to allow Him to divinely persuade us as He imparts faith.

But, at the same time, I don’t know why I’m so surprised by this. I mean, if you hang out and talk with your best friend…they are going to influence you. So why does it surprise me that talking with God is all about us seeking for Him to impart faith and influence us. I like it!

This seems to shed light on the idea of praying in the HS. But to better understand this concept, we must also understand that the Greek doesn’t have the same preposition structure as English does. So the word for ‘in’ isn’t actually ‘in’. There is no direct English translation to parallel this preposition. For example, when Jude says, ‘pray in the HS’…the translations could just as easily be ‘pray by the HS’…or ‘pray on the HS’…or ‘pray among the HS’…obviously some of these English prepositions don’t make as much sense, but the idea is really ‘praying within the sphere of influence of the HS’. This is very similar to Paul saying ‘walk by the HS’ in Gal 5…this could be translated a few different ways, but the meaning is best understood as submit to the HS’s will…just like Jude is saying…pray inside the will of the HS…or pray inside the will of God.

This concept is consistent with v17-19 as well…Jude is encouraging believers to know the will of God by recalling the words of the apostles…and to pray the will of God by the prompting of the HS. This will build faith as we build on the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

One last passage that may help illustrate the HS’s role in prayer is Ro 8:26-30 –

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.*

Note there’s a lot of groaning in the latter passages of Ro 8. Creation groans as in childbirth pains, we who have the first fruits of the HS groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption to sonship…that is the glorification of our bodies…and the HS uses wordless groans as he intercedes for us. The HS knows our minds and the Father’s mind…He is able to petition for the perfect will of God in our lives.

So somehow the HS helps us in our weakness. The word for help here refers to someone coming alongside another to assist with a task that is already occurring. This is a beautiful scripture that describes the perfect balance between our efforts and the HS’s power in our lives. Are we saved by grace alone…YES! Are we sanctified by God’s power alone…YES!

But somewhere in the process of spiritual growth there’s a lending hand as we choose to obey…as we choose to pray…the HS is constantly right there beside us with his hand extended and ready to pick us up…extend your sails and be empowered…know that the HS is interceding for you with inexpressible words…words too deep for you and I to understand.

So Jude wants us to pray in accordance with the HS’s will and power…he wants us to build on the foundation that is Christ…he wants our faith to grow…all for what? So we can keep ourselves in the full blessings of God while we wait for our eternal life (v21).

v21 –

**keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.**

Yourselves in [the] love of God keep, awaiting the mercy of the Lord of us, Jesus Christ, unto life eternal.

I love this. Jude is encouraging us to maximize our time in the fullness of blessings in God’s love. Note…Jude is not tasking us to keep ourselves for eternal life…we already have life eternal with God…Jude makes this point very clear in v24 stating God is able to keep us from falling, and to present us before his glorious presence faultless and with great joy…and v1 states to those who are called and loved by God the Father…and are kept for Jesus Christ. You see, we are kept for and by Jesus Christ…Jude, in v21, is simply charging us to the task of obedience…keep in the love of God…and how do we love God…Jesus says in Jn 15:10-11 –

*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. 11I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

Keep yourselves in the love of God…remain in his love…choose to obey him so that Christ’s joy is complete in you and your joy is complete.

*Yourselves in [the] love of God keep, awaiting the mercy of the Lord of us, Jesus Christ, unto life eternal –*

*Write down your findings regarding ‘life’ using biblehub.com tools –*

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The Greek origin is zóé, which means ‘both physical (present) and spiritual (future) existence’. So we keep choosing obedience so our joy and blessing is full…as we wait for the mercy of the Lord to bring us eternal life…both physical eternal life and spiritual eternal life. Believe it or not, your eternity with God has already begun…yes, even here on earth in this wretched physical body. We can experience God right now…and eternity has begun. Now later, yes there will be eternity with God in our glorified body. But don’t sell short what the Lord has promised right now.

*2 Pe 1:3-4*

*His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

So, life eternal began at birth…and life eternal with God began when he took up residence inside your heart.

*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Co 6:19-20*

So make your joy complete…know God’s word…pray in the HS’s power and will…and obey his commands!