

How to stay saved during a pandemic

Sfg. Bishop C. Shawn Tyson

*[24] Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, **Jude 1:24 KJV***

“How to stay saved”, is a reference to adhering to the spiritual directives taught by Jesus, the Apostles and the prophets that pertain to our salvation.
Your salvation is NOT a works-based salvation.

Galatians 2:16 KJV - *[16] Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified** by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be **justified**.*

➤ **PowerPoint:** Justified = **dikaiōō**

1. To render righteous or such he ought to be
2. To show, exhibit, evince, one to be righteous, such as he is and wishes himself to be considered
3. To declare, pronounce, one to be just, righteous, innocent or such as he ought to be

➤ **PowerPoint:** God is preparing THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH for his soon return:

Galatians 6:9-10 KJV - *[9] And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. [10] As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.*

John 13:34-35 KJV - *[34] A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. [35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

God allowed this displacement from the house of God to happen for three primary reasons:

1: To clean house

Ephesians 5:27 KJV - [27] That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2: To clean hearts

Hebrews 10:22 KJV - [22] Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

3: To clean hands

Psalms 24:3-5 KJV - [3] Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. [5] He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Galatians 6:10 KJV - [10] *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH:*

➤ **PowerPoint:** Household = *oikeîos*

1: Belonging to a house or family, domestic, {INTIMATE}

➤ **PP:** If you won't worship God in private, he will not accept your praise in public.

2: Belonging to one's household, related by blood, kindred

Mark 3:31-35 KJV - [31] *There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. [32] And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. [33] And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? [34] And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! [35] For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.*

3: Belonging to the household of God

Ephesians 2:19 KJV - *[19] Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

4: Belonging, devoted to, adherents of a thing

Acts 20:32 KJV - *[32] And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

The Word of God is timeless but also time sensitive, Jude was able to write to believers who were contending for the faith in the first century of the church, but because he was writing under a prophetic unction he was able to minister to us in the last chapter of the church who are being confronted with an increasing spirit of apostasy.

1: The term **apostasy** comes from the Greek word *apostasia* ("ἀποστασία") meaning defection, departure, revolt or rebellion.

2: Apostasy is a willful falling away from, or rebellion against the revealed will of God in the written Word of God:

1 Timothy 4:1-2 KJV - *[1] Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

Jude gave the believers 7 directives on how to avoid the apostates' errors:

- 1: Earnestly contend for the faith (v. 3).
- 2: Remember the teaching and warning of the apostles (v. 17)
- 3: Build yourselves up in the most holy faith (v. 20)
- 4: Pray in the Holy Spirit (v. 20).
- 5: Keep yourselves in the love of God (v. 21).
- 6: Look for the mercy of the Lord to bring you to eternal life (v. 21).
- 7: Show mercy to Christians who are doubting, snatch unbelievers from the fire, and cautiously show mercy to the corrupt (vv. 22–23).

1: To contend for THE FAITH means to stand unwavering without compromise upon the truth and authority of the teachings of the Apostles and prophets, which are all anchored in Jesus, his teachings, and his life, death, burial, and resurrection and promise of his return.

2: Remembering the teaching of the apostles 17–19.

Jude told his readers to remember what the apostles had foretold about scoffers. At Ephesus, Paul warned of the “savage wolves” that would come in to destroy the flock and distort the truth (Acts 20:29–30). Paul and Peter sounded similar warnings of apostasy in their epistles; As stated in Jude 18–19, these intruders:

- (a) Scoffed (cf. vv. 10–15)
- b) Followed their own ungodly desires and mere natural instincts
- c) Sought to divide believers.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 KJV - *[15] Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

3: Nurturing themselves

In addition to remembering what the apostles had said about the apostates, Jude’s readers were to give attention to themselves. The heart of Jude’s message: build yourselves up in your most holy faith ... pray in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love, and wait for Christ’s return.

The NIV seems to suggest three exhortations, but the Greek has four parallel participles:

- 1: Building
- 2: Praying
- 3: Keeping
- 4: Expecting

- Personal edification (“build yourselves up”) comes from progressing in the knowledge of “your most holy faith” by spending quality time in the Word of God every single day.

- Praying in the Holy Spirit is not only speaking in tongues, but is praying out of hearts and souls that are indwelt, illuminated, and filled with the Holy Spirit”.
- It is praying in the power of the Holy Spirit (cf. Eph. 6:18).
- Keeping oneself in God’s love, Jude 21) does not indicate that salvation depends on one’s own efforts, for that would contradict other Scripture passages;

A believer is nurtured as he is occupied with God’s love for him, and is in fellowship with Him (cf. John 15:9–10, “remain in My love”).

- **PowerPoint:** Waiting (prosdechomenoi, “looking expectantly”) for the blessed hope

Jude added that it will bring you to eternal life, that is, to enjoying never-ending life in God’s own presence (cf. 1 Peter 1:5, 9, 13)

- Being merciful to others (vv. 22–23).
 - Vv. 22–23. Because the words of the apostates were confusing, probably many believers were in doubt as to whether to follow them.
- Such persons, Jude wrote, should not be slandered or criticized. They should be dealt with in love and mercy—the same way in which the Lord dealt with them (cf. v. 21).
- Others—those who are unsaved—were about to fall into the fire, the eternal fire of hell, Jude exhorted his readers to snatch them from the fire and save them.

Jude 1:24-25 KJV - [24] *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25] To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*