

What Does It Mean to Defend the Faith? **BATTLE AND NOT SETTLE**

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Jude 3-4

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.

“Contend” is where we get the word “defend,” “fight,” and “strive earnestly.”

Luke 22:44

44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

2 Tim. 4:7

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

The faith that is mentioned is not:

- Saving Faith
- Justifying Faith
- Indwelling Faith
- Gift of Faith

But clearly, he is interested in Doctrinal Faith. We know this by the phrase, “*once for all delivered to the saints.*”

“Delivered to the saints” meant, what was transmitted in the way of teaching, precept, or doctrine. Notice 1 Cor. 11:2 and 2 Thes 2:15; 3:6

1 Cor 11:2

Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.
NKJV

2 Thess 2:15

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.
NKJV

2 Thess 3:6

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.
NKJV

The traditions of man should never supersede the Word of God.

Matt 15:1-9

Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 5 But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God" — 6 then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.
9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

There are three biblical truths we are challenged to defend. **We must:**

- **Battle** against false teaching
- **Fight** to keep the faith
- **Strive** to finish strong