

THE CALL TO PERSEVERE

Jude 17-23

December 9, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The best defense is a good offense.
- B. That's especially important to remember if we are going to contend for the faith.

**WE CAN CONTEND FOR THE FAITH
WHEN WE PERSEVERE BY STAYING
ON THE OFFENSIVE WITH GOD.**

II. WHAT IS GOD'S OFFENSIVE STRATEGY?

- A. We are to persevere by staying on the offensive in our relationship with God.

(Jude 20-21)

 - 1. In relationships, we are either making the investment to grow closer or we are slowly drifting apart. . . that is especially true in our relationship with God.
 - 2. We can't contend for the faith unless that faith is deeply rooted in a growing relationship with God.
 - 3. "Build yourselves up in your most Holy faith."
 - a. How are we to build up our faith?
 - 1) God's Word— Romans 10:16-17; Acts 20:22-33
 - 2) Pray in the Holy Spirit— Romans 8:26-27
 - 3) Keep yourselves in God's love— John 14:15-21; 15:9-14
 - 4) Live in the hope of eternal life— Jude 21
 - b. Faith, hope and love. The stronger we are in these qualities the deeper our resolve to stay on the offensive and persevere.

- B. We are to persevere by staying on the offensive in our mission for God.

(Jude 22-23)

 - 1. We are called to respond with action toward a lost, sinful and dying world.
 - a. "Be merciful to those who doubt."

(Jude 22)
 - b. "Snatch others from the fire and save them."

(Jude 23)
 - c. "To others show mercy mixed with fear hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh."

(Jude 23; Galatians 6:1)
 - 2. When people stay on the offensive engaged in His mission of reaching lost and deceived people by speaking truth and showing love we are contending for the faith staying on the offensive and persevering with God.

III. CONCLUSION