

Contending for the Power of God

Jude 1:3: *"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."*

• **Apostolic faith – the faith of Jesus – releases apostolic power.**

• **This is faith rooted in intimacy and obedience.**

• **We're not just talking about good apologetics.**

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Jude 1:3

• **Three parts to apostolic faith:**

• **Lifestyles of intimacy, devotion and separation to the Lord.**

• **Continuous individual and corporate intercession and worship (Acts 2 & 4).**

• **Proclamation of the King and His Kingdom gospel with attending conviction and demonstrations of power.**

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Jude 1:3

• **We must contend for biblical truth AND biblical power.**

• **The past season of operating in an anointing or gift while maintaining lifestyles of secret sin or carnality has closed.**

• **Fire to empower is coming, but first it comes as a fire to purify and refine.**

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2 Tim. 4:3-4: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”*

• **We are here...**

• **People are choosing “doctrine” that suits their carnal preferences.**

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2 Tim. 4:3-4

• **There is no such thing as sound doctrine that is not attended by apostolic power and righteousness!**

• **Are today’s churches a New Testament body connected to the Head, sharing His love, righteousness and power, or mostly a collection of folks with itching ears who want to be assured that they’re fine to keep their lifestyles of carnality and powerlessness?**

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Acts 19:1, 8-20

• **A gathering of folks who had partially correct doctrine with no apostolic power.**

• **The vision brought to Ephesus by Paul was not to have a large, popular ministry, but to see the city transformed by the presence and power of the King.**

• **Paul’s passion was not known on earth, but he was known in hell!**

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Acts 19:1, 8-20

- His heart, lifestyle and message had authority that was known in the angelic realm.
- His lifestyle of separation, intimacy and prayer moved kingdom forces when he proclaimed!
- I'm ready to see "unusual miracles" and demonic power displaced, but have we qualified to operate in this kind of authority?

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Matt. 11:12: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

- To enter into this dimension of region shaking authority takes fierce determination, a spirit of love-fueled endurance, and a lifestyle of intimate communion for the long haul (three months @ Ephesus, night & day before breakthrough).

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Matt. 11:12

- It takes embracing weakness to the flesh: prayer/worship lifestyle, fasting, giving and enduring misunderstanding and persecution with no offense and no vengeance!
- We must KNOW it may not come on our "quick-minded" schedules.
 - Cornelius (Acts 10) – years of intercession and giving.
 - Anna – prayed and fasted night and day for 60 years.
- Who's up to contend for His presence and power?
