

**Victory Connect Lesson
Contend for the Faith
Pastor Paul Daugherty
March 10, 2024**

Introduction: To contend means to fight earnestly for something as a combatant. Everything we believe is under attack in our culture. We must **Contend for the Faith** (Jude 1:3) while the world around us is in moral decay.

1. We are at war with spiritual authorities.

Eph 6:12 KJV - 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

2. Following Christ involves self-denial.

Mat 16:24 KJV - 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

3. We need both mercy and truth.

Pro 16:6 KJV - 6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD [men] depart from evil.

Contending for the Faith means:

1. Real faith requires real surrender.

Luk 22:42 KJV - 42 Saying, Father ... nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

2. There will be persecution.

Mar 10:30 KJV - 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions;...

3. Pray for opportunities for the gospel to advance.

Mat 9:38 KJV - 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

4. If we can't go, we need to sow.

Rom 10:15 KJV - 15a And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

5. Go share the gospel. (The lost are God's priority.)

Mar 16:15 KJV - 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does taking up your cross mean to you?
2. Have you ever prayed "your will not mine be done?"
3. Who can you share the gospel with this week?

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