**The Study of Jude: Contend for the Faith**

**The Identity of the Believer - Jude 1:1-4**

**Hermeneutical Cycles:**

1. **Overview reading:** A cursory reading of the text. (Read daily for at least a month) This will give you an overall impression of the book.
2. **Provisional Controlling Purpose**: Write down one sentence, “PCP.” This is provisional because you are unsure what the book's exact controlling purpose is.
3. **Textual Analysis**: Examine the individual concepts in the book. Break down the separate paragraphs, sentences, phrases, and words to clarify meaning.
4. **Controlling Purpose**: Write down your final sentence, I.e., “Controlling Purpose.”
5. **Validation**: Check with commentaries and analytical writings on the book you are studying. Check with pastors and teachers who can help to review your work.

**The Believer’s Identity.**

*"1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you."*  (Jude 1:1–2)

**The identity of all true believers:**

1. **Called**: God calls us to conform to Jesus, which by his power we will do.
2. **Loved**: God has favor on his people.
3. **Kept**: Guarded against departure from Christ.

**The multiplication of God’s character; mercy, peace, and love:**

(Note how these character traits impact Jude’s readers in Jude 1:19-23)

1. **Mercy**: compassion for doubters.
2. **Peace**: a gentle spirit of reliance on Christ.
3. **Love**: giving favor to others.

**The Purpose of Jude’s Writing.**

*"3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."* (Jude 1:3–4)

**The interrupted purpose:** (The more pressing need is to warn you about false teachers)

**Contend for the faith:** (epagonizomai, to suffer in the pursuit of an athletic prize)

**False Teachers are sinners that deny Christ’s authority in our lives:** (Grace = license to sin.)