

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

*Like a Master Builder
Prayer Guide #7
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



In Your Most Holy Faith
Jude 20-21

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

Augustus M. Toplady and Thomas Hastings

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood from Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfil Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly—wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment-throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee!

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***Built In Your Most Holy Faith:
Building, Praying, Keeping, and Waiting***

Build Yourselves Up in Your Most Holy Faith

Acts 9.31 - So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Rom. 15.2 - Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

1 Cor. 1.4-9 - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, [5] that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— [6] even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— [7] so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [8] who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor. 10.23 - “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.

1 Cor. 14.4-5 - The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. [5] Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.

1 Cor. 14.26 - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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Eph. 4.11-16 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Eph. 4.29 - Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Col. 2.6-7 - Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, [7] rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1 Thess. 5.11 - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Rom. 14.19 - So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Acts 15.7-8 - And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. [8] And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, [9] and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.”



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2 Pet. 1.1 - Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

1 John 5.4 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Pray in the Holy Spirit

Zech. 12.10 - And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Ps. 38.9 - O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.

Ps. 66.18-19 - If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. [19] But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

James 5.16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Rom. 8.15-17 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



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Rom. 8.26-27 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. [27] And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

1 Cor. 14.15 - What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

Gal. 4.6 - And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

Eph. 6.13-18 - Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. [14] Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. [16] In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; [17] and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, [18] praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

Jude 1.24-25 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, [25] to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

2 Thess. 3.5 - May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.



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Rom. 5.3-5 - More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1 John 3.1-2 - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we will be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3.16-18 - By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. [17] But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? [18] Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

John 10.29-30 - My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. [30] I and the Father are one.

Rom. 8.31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Rom. 14.4 - Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Rom. 16.25-27 - Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages [26] but has now been disclosed



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and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— [27] to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Eph. 3.20-21 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

2 Tim. 4.18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Rom. 8.35-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? [36] As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Tim. 4.6-8 - For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.



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Waiting for the Mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 5.8-10 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. [10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Job 14.14 - If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come.

Lam. 3.25-26 - The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. [26] It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Matt. 24.42-46 - Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. [43] But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. [44] Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. [45] "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? [46] Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

Titus 2.11-14 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, [13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.



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Heb. 9.28 - so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

2 Pet. 3.8-13 - But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. [10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. [11] Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, [12] waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! [13] But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The Grace That Leads to Joy in the Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ

Ps. 21.6 - For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

Luke 9.26 - For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

1 Thess. 4.16-17 - For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.



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1 Pet. 4.13 - But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Ps. 16.11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Ps. 17.15 - As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Ps. 49.15 - But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. *Selah*

Ps. 73.24 - You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

Isa. 35.10 - And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isa. 60.19-20 - The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. [20] Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

John 17.24 - Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

2 Cor. 5.8 - Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.



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Rev. 7.14-17 - I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. [15] Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. [16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. [17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” ■

Godly Construction Work: Built Up in Your Most Holy Faith

NOTHING SUCCEEDS in building like a good plan. Knowing how to construct something, how it is built, how the pieces fit, what the procedure should be in getting something accomplished—these are staples in any construction project, whether it is building a dog house in the backyard or renovating an entire metropolitan airport. Knowing how to build is as critical as deciding to build.

Jude’ little epistle is concerned properly about the intrusion of apostates and false teachers who were encroaching upon the community of believers. He sternly and firmly warned them to be on the lookout for these false leaders and phony teachers, contending always for the truth of the faith:

Jude 1.3-4 - 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.



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After exhorting them to be on their guard against such pretenders, and warning them to contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, Jude leaves his readers with a simple plan for edification and maturity: *give attention to your own spiritual formation together*. This is a dramatically simple message with profound implications, and he highlights the different components of this simple exhortation with four distinct commands highlighted here in the Greek: build yourselves up in your most holy faith, pray in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love, and wait for Christ's return.

Build Yourselves Up in Your Most Holy Faith

The first exhortation is for these “beloved” saints to build themselves up in their most holy faith. This is the first of four parallel participles in the Greek: *building, praying, keeping, waiting*. Jude draws a clear and powerful distinction between the saints and the pretenders here; “But you” is how he introduces these commands. Knowing that they were not of the same corrupted metal as the scoffers, he challenges them as beloved and dear friends to, first of all, build themselves up in their most holy faith. Together, as the community of saints, as believers in assembly, they were to do those things that would lead to their personal and communal education (see also vv. 3, 17, 20) understood in connection to the upbuilding of their “most holy faith.” This, of course, is the very same faith that he earlier declared had been entrusted to them, for which now they were to contend. In my judgment this entails the very Story of God's actions in the person of Jesus Christ, which was the preaching of their mission and the teaching of their epistles (Acts 20; Titus 2.11-14; 2 Tim. 2.15).

Pray in the Holy Spirit

The second exhortation was for the community to commit themselves to pray in the Holy Spirit. While some have attempted in their exegesis to exclude this text from praying in tongues, such interpretations seem both strained and unnecessary, and, in large part, tend to miss the point of the instruction. Jude here exhorts the believers to pray in the power, leading, and illumination of the Holy Spirit; they are to be filled and animated by his



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power and instruction. Being sealed, indwelt, and anointed by him, they were to yield to him, especially in their prayer lives together. His challenge was akin to the same prayer exhortation given by Paul in Ephesians 6.18-19:

Eph. 6.18-19 - Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, [19] and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

It is this kind of praying in the power of the Holy Spirit that upbuilds the church and strengthens its leaders and ministers, empowering them to affirm the truth in the midst of this darkened realm still ravaged and hounded by our ancient foe of hate and rage. Only sustained prayer can edify us as we serve God's interests in this world system.

Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

Next, Jude exhorts the believers to keep themselves in the love of God. The wondrous and matchless love of God does not need our feeble efforts to stay faithful and true. Rather, Jude here instructs believers to embrace, remain in, and abide in the love of the Father and the Son, i.e., to affirm it, revel in it, confess and express their faith in it. He is not asking them in their own fleshly efforts to make the love of God their own; that would involve the obviously unbiblical claim that our salvation or sanctification must somehow ultimately depend on what we can get and keep. Jude here suggests that the Christian community is built up and grows as it makes the love of God its "magnificent obsession," to embrace this love and forgiveness that cannot be earned nor lost, and to remain in joyful, open fellowship with the Father through faith in Christ.

John 15.9-12 - As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,



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*just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
[11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and
that your joy may be full. [12] This is my commandment, that you love
one another as I have loved you.*

The same love the Father has for Jesus he has for us. We are to keep ourselves in this love, and nurtured in love and acceptance, we are to display the same to our fellow believers. We are not to *create* the love but to *receive* it, and to abide in it as we love one another in Christ-inspired hospitality and generosity.

Wait for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ That Leads to Eternal Life

Finally, Jude commands the Christians to wait for, to be expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the very mercy that will lead to never-ending life with him and all his saints in the new heavens and earth to come. We are in a period of waiting; as we build ourselves up, as we pray in the Holy Spirit, as we remain in God's love, so we are to look expectantly for the blessed hope of Christ's return for his own.

Together in assembly, in our worship, through the Scriptures and the sacraments, in our spiritual formation and disciplines, we are to wait. We anticipate the future, and are expecting God to send his Son to us, the very same Sacrifice that cancelled our sin debt, and made us destined not for wrath but for salvation through his suffering and death. As we await his coming, we look for the climax of his boundless grace: the return of Jesus for his own (1 Thess. 4.16-17).

Above all our ministry and service and working and waiting, we desire to be caught up with our Lord and experience what the saints through the ages have prayed for—eternal life, i.e., knowing the Father and his Son through the Spirit, enjoying with all the believing the bliss of God's own presence in



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a new heavens and new earth. This is the purpose of our building, our ministry, our prayers, our labors (cf. 1 Pet. 1.5-13).

For those of us in urban ministry, who love the city and seek its lost ones, we must constantly remember that communion with God and his people is the plain purpose of ministry (1 John 1.1-4). Let us pray this month that all our efforts in becoming master builders will be rooted in our own spiritual wellness and health. Jude exhorts those who contend to ever be building themselves up. You cannot expand out if you fail to go deeper down.

Building, praying, keeping, and waiting. Let us listen to the Holy Spirit as he speaks to us through Jude's words, and as we celebrate Pentecost this Season, let us determine to pay careful attention to our own spiritual wellness as we labor ever more for the sake of the cities of the world. The Spirit will empower us; all we need to do is listen and obey. ■

The Celebration of Pentecost: Built Up in Our Most Holy Faith

Jude 1.20-21 - But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; [21] keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Biblical Principle of the Month

As we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and begin this extended Season after Pentecost, let us determine to enrich each other in community as we edify one another in faith. Let us start immediately to obey the instruction of Jude: to build ourselves up in the faith, to pray in the Holy Spirit, to keep ourselves in the love of God, and to wait for mercy at the coming of our Lord Jesus. Only in the power of God's Spirit can we proceed and expand. He will empower us if we submit to his will and follow his word to build, pray, love, and wait.



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An Example of Consistent Effort to Patiently Edify Others: Jude

Jude 1.3 - 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.

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