

## **Ministry To The Doubting**

We are currently studying 10 basic Categorical Bible Doctrines (CBD) important to those Contenders of the Faith (Jude 3, 20-25).

**The first five doctrines are internal.** They are important for the spiritual growth stability of the Contender of the Faith (Jude 20-21) [yourselves]

**The last five doctrines are external.** They are important for the spiritual ministry to others by the Contender of the Faith (Jude 22-23) [some and others].

Of the last five, the first doctrine is the Ministry to the Doubting:

(Jude 22) "And have mercy on some, who are doubting save snatching them out of fire."

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Contenders of Faith ministry to the doubting.**

The Greek word for doubting is **diakrino** (to contend with oneself / middle voice). It refers to wavering or being undecided between two opinions (James 1:6-8).

### **1. Two Greek grammar markers in (Jude 22-23) are important to interpreting the Contenders of Faith ministry to the doubting.**

These two **Greek markers** separate (Jude 22-23) into two ministry sections: (hos) [relative pronoun + men] [particle of affirmation] and (hos) [relative pronoun + de] [continuing conjunction].

**1<sup>st</sup> ministry:** "And have mercy (p.a.impv.2pl) [command] on some (hos men), who are doubting (diakrino / p.m.ptc.aplm) save (sozo / p.a.impv.2pl) [command] snatching out (haprazo / p.a.ptc.nplm) of fire (ek+abl. of separation / pur / abl.sn)," (Jude22:23a)

**2<sup>nd</sup> ministry:** On others (hos de) have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh." (Jude 23b) [Next week's study]

### **2. The first ministry mentioned is to some who doubt either the message or the mechanics of grace salvation by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Message** (1 Cor.15:3-4)

The Gospel is the substitutionary death, burial and resurrection of **Jesus Christ** for all mankind (Titus 2:11; John 1:29; Acts 17).

**Mechanics** (Rom.1:16; Acts 15)

The Gospel is the power of God to salvation to everyone who **believes it**. (Gal.2:16).

**Method** (Jude 22; Acts 16)

The Gospel must be presented with mercy to those doubting (1 Thess.1:5; 1 Cor.1:17-18).

**Miracle** (Jude 23a)

The Gospel saves us from eternal damnation (save snatching out of fire) (Luke 16:22-31) [torment of fire]; (Rev.20:11-15) [lake of fire]

3. **In this case, doubting means the unbeliever hasn't yielded to their doubt but also hasn't yielded to faith. Doubt (diakrino) means they were wavering or hesitating (at odds within himself).**

Jude explains how to minister mercy in such a situation. One again his explanation is best understood from the Greek grammar structure.

It is imperative that mercy (eleeo / p.a.impv.2pl) [compassion] be ministered at the same time as the doubting (diakrino / p.m.ptc. aplm) (Jude 22).

(Eph.2:4-5) “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

- **Peter** (Acts 10:20) [without misgiving] (diakrino) (Acts 10:11-20; 11:12)
- **Ethiopian** (Acts 8:25-37)
- **Nicodemus** (John 3:1-12)

4. **The ministry of mercy is compassion expressed towards those struggling with doubt and faith.**

This is important because their salvation (sozo / p.a.impv.2pl) is compared to) to snatching them (haprazo / p.a.ptc.nplm) out of fire.

(Titus 3:5-7) “He saved us, **not on the basis of deeds** which we have done in righteousness, **but according to His mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by His grace** we would be made heirs according to the hope of **eternal life**.”

(1 Pet.2:10) “For you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but **now you have received mercy**.”

(James 2:13b) “Mercy triumph over judgment.”

### **A Message from Hell**

(Luke 16:23-24) “In Hades he lifted up eyes, being in torment and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’”