

BE CONFIDENT AMIDST APOSTASY
(Jude 20-21)

- I. The First ACTIVITY for Strengthening Your Assurance (20a)
 - A. Likens SPIRITUAL GROWTH to the erection of a house or temple (cf. 1 Cor. 3:10, 12, 14; Eph. 2:20; Col. 2:7)
 - 1. The structure is ERECTED on an existing FOUNDATION
 - 2. Building a STRONG and STABLE Christian character is an ONGOING activity
 - 3. This presents a vivid contrast with the DESSTRUCTIVE impact of the false teachers
 - B. Makes INDIVIDUALS responsible for their own GROWTH
 - 1. You cannot do this without GOD'S HELP (cf. Phil. 2:12-13)
 - 2. You can do this only through DEPENDENCE on God's WORD (Acts 20:32; cf. Eph. 4:11-12)
 - C. Identifies the foundation as "your MOST HOLY FAITH" (cf. 1 Cor. 3:10-11)
- II. The Second ACTIVITY for Strengthening Your Assurance (20b)
 - A. Enjoins a fixed HABIT of PRAYING

- B. Characterizes the prayer as being "IN THE HOLY SPIRIT" (cf. Rom. 8:26-27)
 - 1. This does not refer to SPEAKING in TONGUES
 - 2. It means praying in a manner consistent with the Spirit's WILL

III. The Central DUTY of Maintaining Your Assurance (21*a*)

- A. Indicates the need for effective SELF-DISCIPLINE
- B. Could refer to either THEIR love for GOD or GOD'S love for THEM
 - 1. It could be a call to be STEADFAST in loving God while others DEFECT
 - 2. It is probably a charge to REMAIN in the sphere of DIVINE BLESSING, which is conditioned upon OBEDIENCE (John 15:9-11)

IV. The Resultant ANTICIPATION from Strengthening Your Assurance (21*b*)

- A. Results in an attitude of EAGER ANTICIPATION (cf. Titus 2:13)
- B. Results in expectation of the MERCY of "our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - 1. They have already received ABUNDANT MERCY (v. 2)
 - 2. This reminds us that salvation is NEVER by MERIT
- C. Looks toward our GLORIFICATION in ETERNITY