

SERMON NOTES: NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Pastor John Tittle | God Is Able | Jude 20-25 NRSVue

1. Most of Jude's letter describes false teachers as waterless clouds, fruitless trees, wild waves, and wandering stars (vv. 12–13). Then in verse 20 he shifts the tone with "But you, beloved." Why do you think Jude ends with a promise that God is able rather than with one more warning? How does that change the feel of the letter as a whole?
2. Jude is the second to last book of the Bible. One commentator noted that if Revelation were not in the Bible, the last five verses of Jude would not be a bad way to conclude the entire New Testament. What do you think?
3. Jude declares believers are "kept safe for Jesus Christ" (v. 1) and praises the God Who "is able to keep you from falling" (v. 24). Yet in verse 21 he tells us to "keep yourselves in the love of God." How does God's keeping and our keeping fit together?
4. "Build yourselves up on your most holy faith" (v. 20) is plural, addressed to the whole community. How might we build up each other in our most holy faith? What about our individual selves?
5. What do you think it means to "pray in the Holy Spirit"? (v. 20) How might the regular practice of praying in the Holy Spirit remind us that we aren't able on our own and that God is able?
6. God's love for us never stops, and Jude also encourages believers to "keep yourselves in the love of God" (v. 21). What might this phrase mean?
7. Jude urges us to "look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life" (v. 21). What is Christ's mercy that we look forward to? How does this future mercy impact our present?
8. Verses 22–23 describe three kinds of people: those who are wavering, those who need to be snatched from the fire, and those to whom we show mercy "with fear." What might each look like today? How does trusting that God is able, and not us alone, free us to speak up with humility, and help us know when to entrust someone to God?
9. The Greek phrase for "keep you from falling" (v. 24) was used for a sure-footed horse that doesn't stumble. What are some of the slippery terrains in our world right now? Psalm 94:18 says, "When I thought, 'My foot is slipping,' Your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up." How is God able to keep you stable?
10. Jude says God is able to make us "stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing" (v. 24). Many people picture standing before God with dread. Why does Jude say joy instead?
11. The God Who is able. The doxology ascribes "glory, majesty, power, and authority" to "the only God our Savior," spanning "before all time and now and forever" (v. 25). How does this picture of Who God is support the claim that God is able?