



# You Don't Have To Stumble

Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 558–563.



## **Jude 17–25** (NKJV)

17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

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21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

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- It has been said the Great Wall of China was penetrated at least three times by the enemy, and each time the guards were bribed!
- A strong defense depends on strong people, and this applies to spiritual battles as well as military contests.
- If the church is to oppose and defeat the false Christians, then all of us in the church must be strong and able to “stand against the wiles of the devil” (*Eph. 6:11*).

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- There is always the danger of stumbling (*Jude 24*) and a stumble is the first step toward a fall.
- In this closing paragraph, Jude addressed his beloved readers and gave them four instructions to follow if they would stand firm and resist the apostates.

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# Four Instructions

## Remember ...

- God's Word (*Jude 17–19*)
- Who gave the Word (*v. 17*)
- What they said (*v. 18*)
- Why they said it (*v. 19*)

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# Remember God's Word

(Jude 17–19)

- From the very beginning, Satan has attacked the Word of God.
- “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” [\*The New King James Version\* \(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982\), Ge 3:1.](#)

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# Remember God's Word

*(Jude 17–19)*

- This was his opening thrust when he led Eve into disobedience in the Garden
- Once we begin to question God's Word, we are vulnerable to Satan's other attacks, for only the truth of the Word can protect us from the lies of the devil.

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# Remember God's Word

*(Jude 17–19)*

## Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV)

To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

- If someone does not speak according to the word of God, he is liar, and full of sin. His goal is to mislead us!

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

(v. 17)

- While our Lord had many disciples, He selected only a few to be *apostles*.
- The word means “one who is sent with a commission.”

## 2 Corinthians 12:18 (NKJV)

I urged Titus, and sent our brother with him. Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not walk in the same spirit? Did we not walk in the same steps?

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

(v. 17)

We *MUST*  
Deepen Ourselves  
In The Word!

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

(v. 17)

- Wherever there is the authentic, the counterfeit will appear; this happened in the early church.
- False apostles, Christians, and teachers began to appear, and it was necessary to develop a system to protect the church against false prophecies and forged letters.
- Since Christ had committed “the faith” (*Jude 3*) to His Apostles, one of the main tests in the early church was, “Is this what the Apostles taught?”

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

*(v. 17)*

- When the church assembled the New Testament books, it was required that each book be written either by an apostle or by someone closely associated with an apostle.
- Apostolic teaching was, and still is, the test of truth.

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## **Acts 2:42–43** (NKJV)

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

*(v. 17)*

- Jude mentioned the words that were “spoken” by the Apostles, because originally there were no New Testament epistles. Over the years, inspired letters were written by Paul, Peter, and John; we have these letters in our New Testament.

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# Remember Who Gave The Word

(v. 17)

- We also have a record of some of their sermons in the Book of Acts. We no longer depend on tradition since we have the completed Scriptures, both the Old Testament and the New.
- Whenever somebody offers you a “new revelation,” test it by what the Apostles wrote and by what Jesus Christ taught. You will soon discover that the “revelation” is a lie.

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## **2 Peter 1:19–20** (NKJV)

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;  
20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

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# Remember What They Said

*(v. 18)*

- They prophesied that, in these last days, mockers would come who would deny the Word of God.
- Jude echoed what Peter had written.

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## 2 Peter 3:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle  
*(in both of which I stir up your pure minds by  
way of reminder),*

2 that you may be mindful of the words which  
were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of  
the commandment of us, the apostles of the  
Lord and Savior,

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the  
last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His  
coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all  
things continue as they were from the beginning  
of creation.”

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# Remember What They Said

(v. 18)

**Paul & John Also**  
**WARNED Their Readers**  
**About The Traitors Of**  
**The Word Of God!**

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# 1 Timothy 4:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

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# 1 John 2:18 (NKJV)

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

- When a warning is given so many times, it behooves us to take it seriously!

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# Remember What They Said

(v. 18)

- The phrase “walking after their own lusts” appears in 2 Peter 3:3 and Jude 16 and 18, and it explains *why* the apostates deny God’s truth: *they do not want God to tell them how to live.*
- They want to satisfy their own sinful desires, and the Word of God condemns their selfish way of life.

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# Remember What They Said

(v. 18)

- When a person says, “I have intellectual problems with the Bible,” he probably has *moral* problems because the Bible contradicts what he is doing.

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# Remember What They Said

(v. 18)

**The Only Sure Way To  
Know *The Truth* Of The  
Bible Is By *Obeying It*.**

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# Remember What They Said

(v. 18)

## John 7:17 (NKJV)

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

- Before Satan can substitute his own lies, he must get rid of the truth of God's Word.
- If he cannot argue it away, he will laugh it away, and he can usually find somebody to laugh with him.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- The false teachers and Christians want to divide the church and lead people out of the true fellowship into their false fellowship.

## **Acts 20:30** (NKJV)

Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- Their appeal is usually, “We have a deeper knowledge of the Word that your church doesn’t have!
- We have a better understanding of prophecy, or of the Christian life, than you do.” They offer a “higher quality” religion than that of the Apostles.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- Not only do false teachers, and Christians divide the church, but they also deceive the church, because they are “sensual, having not the Spirit.”
- The word *sensual* means the opposite of “spiritual.”

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# 1 Corinthians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

16 For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- This is the way Paul used it in 1 Corinthians 2:14–16, where it is translated “natural.” (*The Greek word is psukikos, which means “soulish.”*)
- Because the false teachers do not have the Spirit of God, they must function on their natural “soul power” alone.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- One of the tragedies in ministry today is that some of God's people cannot discern between "soul ministry" and the true ministry of the Spirit.
- There is so much "religious showmanship" these days that the saints are confused and deceived.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- Just as there was “false fire” in the tabernacle (*Lev. 10*), so there is “false fire” today in the church; therefore we must exercise careful discernment.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

**How Can We Discern  
Between The “Soulish”  
And The “Spiritual”?**

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- By using the Word of God which is able to divide soul and spirit.

## Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- By paying close attention to the witness of the Spirit of God within.

## **Romans 8:16** (NKJV)

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

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# Remember Why They Said It

(v. 19)

- A “soulish” ministry magnifies man, but the Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ.
- When the Spirit is ministering through the Word, there is edification; but when the soul is merely “manufacturing” a ministry, there is entertainment or, at best, only intellectual education.
- It takes the Spirit of God to minister to our spirits and to make us more like Jesus Christ.

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