

A CALL TO ARMS!

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 548 – 549

Jude 1 – 3 (NKJV)

**¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,
To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and
preserved in Jesus Christ:**

² Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

**³ Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning
our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you
exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once
for all delivered to the saints.**

— Jude 4 – 5 (NKJV)

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

— Jude 6 – 7 (NKJV)

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Since the author of this epistle was the brother of James, this would make him the half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 6:3).

— UNBELIEVING BROTHERS

Mark 6:3 (NKJV)

**Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?”
So they were offended at Him.**

Our Lord’s brothers in the flesh did not believe in Him while He was ministering (John 7:5).

John 7:5 (NKJV) For even His brothers did not believe in Him.


— CONVERTED BROTHERS

It was after the Resurrection when James was converted.

1 Corinthians 15:7 (NKJV)

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

We have every reason to believe that Jude was also saved at that time.



Acts 1:14 informs us that “His brethren” were part of the praying group awaiting the Holy Spirit; 1 Corinthians 9:5 states that “the brethren of the Lord” were known in the early church.



Jude wrote to the same believers who had received Peter's letters, intending to stir them up and remind them to take Peter's warnings to heart.

You will discover several parallels between Jude and 2 Peter as you study this fascinating but neglected letter.



— “A CALL TO ARMS”

Jude wrote to “exhort” the readers (Jude 3).

In the Greek language, this word was used to describe a General giving orders to the army; therefore, the tone of this letter is “military.” Jude had started to write a quiet devotional letter about salvation, but the Spirit led him to put down his harp and sound the trumpet!

The Epistle of Jude is a call to arms.

— THE ARMY (Jude 1 - 2)

Jude 1 - 2 (NKJV)

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

**To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and
preserved in Jesus Christ:**

2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

— THE CAPTAIN & ARMY

The Captain of the Army is Jesus Christ, and the soldiers He commands are people who share a “common salvation” through faith in Him.

- **Jude called them *saints* (Jude 3), which simply means “set apart ones”.**
- **He addressed them as *sanctified*, which, again, means “set apart”. (Some manuscripts read “beloved in God the Father”).**



Indeed, salvation begins in the heart of God and not in the will of man (Romans 9:16).

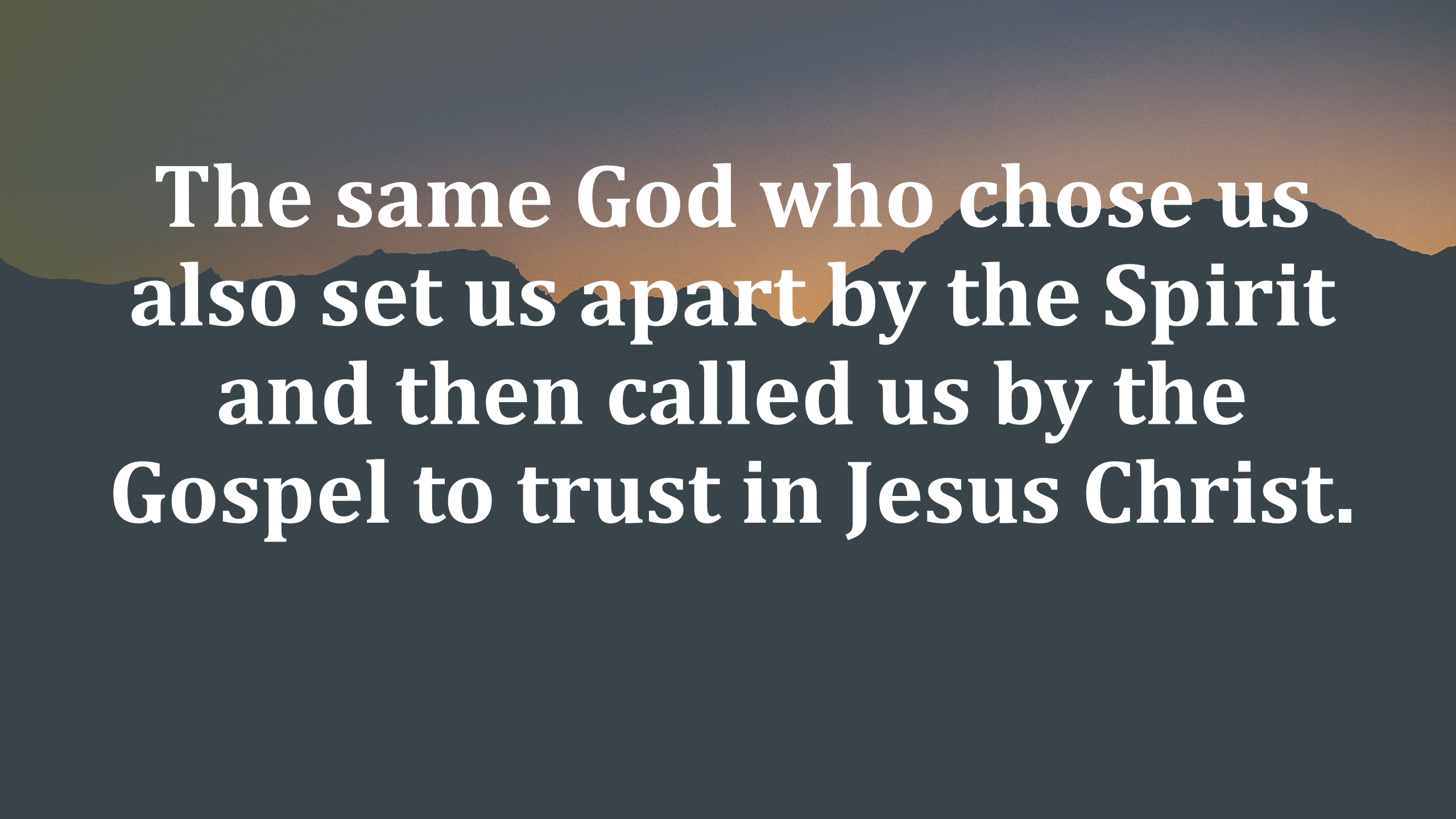
The mysteries of God's sovereign electing grace are beyond us in this life and will never be understood until we enter His glorious presence.



For that reason, we are wise not to make them the basis for arguments and divisions.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV)

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.



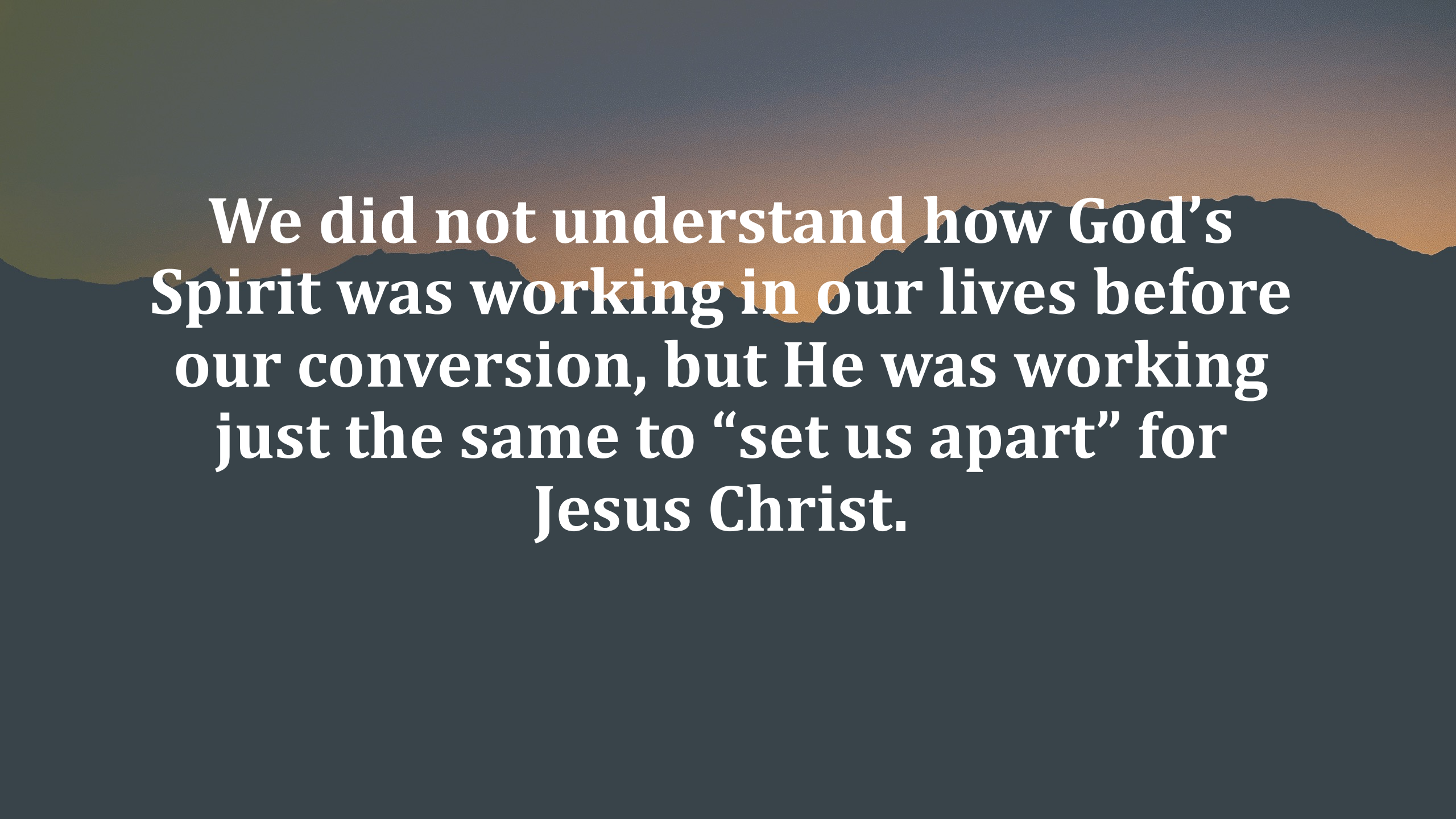
**The same God who chose us
also set us apart by the Spirit
and then called us by the
Gospel to trust in Jesus Christ.**

— 2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 14 (NKJV)

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's choosing and God's calling go together, for the God who ordains the end (our salvation) also ordains the *means to the end* (someone calling us to Christ).




We did not understand how God's Spirit was working in our lives before our conversion, but He was working just the same to "set us apart" for Jesus Christ.

— SET APART & PRESERVED

**Not only are
God's saints set
apart, but they
are also
*preserved.***

**Preserved means “carefully
watched and guarded”. The
believer is secure in Jesus Christ.**

**This same word is used in Jude 6
and 13 (“reserved”) and also in
Jude 21 (“keep yourselves”).**



Jude 6 (NKJV)

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Jude 13 (NKJV)

raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

— PRESERVED FOR GLORY

God is preserving the fallen angels and the renouncers for judgment, but He is preserving His own children for glory.

Meanwhile, He is able to preserve us in our daily walk and keep us from stumbling.

— MULTIPLIED BLESSINGS

We are set apart and preserved, God's soldiers are the recipients of God's choicest blessings: mercy, peace and love.


- **Like the Apostle Peter, Jude wanted these special blessings to be *multiplied* in their lives.**
- **Multiplied - πληθύνω [*plethuno* /play·thoo·no/] v. It is to increase, to multiply.**

— Isaiah 53:4 – 5 (NKJV)

**God in His
mercy does not
give us what we
deserve. Instead,
He gave our
punishment to
His own Son on
the cross.**

**⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And
carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed
Him stricken, Smitten by God, and
afflicted.**

**⁵ But He was wounded for our
transgressions, He was bruised for
our iniquities; The chastisement for
our peace was upon Him, And by His
stripes we are healed.**



**Because of
Christ's work
on the cross,
believers
enjoy *peace*.**

**The unsaved person is at war with God
and cannot please Him.**

Romans 8:7 – 8 (NKJV)

**⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity
against God; for it is not subject to the
law of God, nor indeed can be.**

**⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh
cannot please God.**



GOD'S PEACE

When the unbeliever trusts the Savior, the war ends, and he receives God's peace.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,



GOD'S LOVE

When the unbeliever trusts the Savior, the war ends, and he also experiences God's love.

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

— GOD'S DEMONSTRATION

The Cross is God's demonstration of love.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Jesus' love is not experienced
within until His Spirit comes
into the believing heart.**

**As the believer grows in his
spiritual life, he enters into a
deeper relationship of love.**

— John 14:21 – 24 (NKJV)

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me

We who know Christ as Savior enjoy a unique position. We are called *by* God to be set apart *for* God that we might enjoy love *with* God.

While our fellowship with the Father might change from day to day, our relationship as children cannot change.

— Preserved in Jesus Christ!

Because Jude would write a great deal in this letter about sin and judgment, he was careful at the very outset to define the special place that believers have in the heart and plan of God.

Jude 3 (NKJV)

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

APOSTATES

- **The apostates would sin, fall and suffer condemnation, but the true believers would be kept safe in Jesus Christ for all eternity.**
- **It bears repeating that an apostate is not a true believer, but one who has abandoned his salvation.**
- **He has professed to accept the truth and trust the Savior and then turns from “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).**



Peter made it clear that the apostates were not God's sheep but were instead pigs and dogs.

2 Peter 2:21 – 22 (NKJV)

²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”



The sow had been cleaned on the outside, and the dog on the inside, but neither had been given that new nature which is characteristic of God's true children.

— 2 Peter 1:3 – 4 (NKJV)

³ as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.



Here, we have the “spiritual army” that Jude was addressing. If you have trusted Jesus Christ, YOU ARE IN THIS ARMY.

God is not looking for volunteers; He has already enlisted you!

The question is NOT, “Shall I become a soldier?” Instead, it is, “Will I be a *loyal* soldier?”

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