

Contending for the Faith

Throughout the New Testament we are exhorted to apprehend something that is called 'The Faith.' We are encouraged to first attain it, then contend or fight to keep it. We are then warned to examine or test ourselves, to see if we are still 'in' it. But what is this thing called 'The Faith'?

First, we must understand that 'The Faith' speaks not of a general quality of faith and trust that we are to have, of which faith we are all given a certain measure. Instead, this phrase speaks of a particular system of Truth that is described throughout Scripture. One is either 'in' or 'out' of this system of Truth — for there is no middle ground. Thus the phrase "in 'the' faith" is used in 2Corinthians 13:5 to describe its nature. But what is *'The Faith'?*

What is *The Faith*?

The phrase *'the faith'* appears in 42 verses of Scripture, giving us a clue as to what *'The Faith'* is. Since the number 42 speaks of Yahushua appearing in us, we see this phrase must relate to this subject of 'Messiah-in-you.' The test of being 'in' The Faith can be seen in the following passage:

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Yahushua Messiah is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2Corinthians 13:5)

According to the above passage, if we know for ourselves that Yahushua is in us, then we can see that we are 'in' The Faith. This understanding of 'The Faith' is necessary as we look at other Scriptures to determine their meaning. Look at the following passages:

And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. (Romans 4:12)

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (Romans 4:16)

I am crucified with Messiah: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Messiah liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of Elohim, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of Elohim, and the faith of Yahushua. (Revelation 14:12)

When we see the term, "the faith of Yahushua," our first thoughts are that it always means faith 'in' Yahushua. But what does the term, "the faith of Abraham" mean? This term does not mean faith 'in' Abraham, but describes a system of faith, of hearing and walking in obedience to YHWH, and to the Truth of His Word. The term 'the faith' of Abraham can then be seen as the system of walking in the Word, as Abraham did; and 'the faith' of Yahushua is the life of walking in the Word as Yahushua did, and whose life is our pattern, and our example.

When we are first Born-Again, we are 'in the faith' as a newborn Babe, as we obey the Truth given to us. However, as we grow and mature, we begin to hear teachings from

many that will shape our lives as Believers, and some that will actually turn us away from the Truth:

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.
(Titus 1:14)

Some false notions come in the form of Jewish fables; others come in the form of Doctrines and Commandments of Men. Many young Believers may not know Scriptures well, but believe everything that is taught them, without checking against Scriptures. These Commandments of Men can turn us away from the Truth.

Many teachings turn out to be a mixture of Truth sprinkled with the Commandments of Men, and are not easily discerned. So many young Believers are led away from Truth, into a form of captivity, where they are still YHWH's people, but are in disobedience, so they are not aware of this captivity.

Samson, who was counted among YHWH's people, had his eyes put out, and was put in captivity. Believers today, like Samson, have had their spiritual eyes put out when they are led into captivity for disobedience. Only repentance can restore the eyesight.

This understanding is vital when we are confronted with passages that have been twisted by modern theologians to say something that the Scriptures do not say. The enemy is constantly at work, 'twisting' the Scriptures. So our first line of defense is to know the Scriptures, by studying YHWH's Words, by reading them for ourselves.

When we encounter any idea that goes against what we already know, there is a sense of 'contending,' as the 'waving of a red flag.' An uneasiness will stir within us.

But this same uneasiness happens to us, when we encounter the Truth of YHWH's Word — if what we hold is a mixture of Truth and error. We do not want to oppose YHWH, but to grow. So how do we overcome this uneasiness, this sense of opposition?

It is human nature to avoid confrontation, so many will try to avoid the uneasiness, and confrontation, and will not contend for the Truth. As a result there are multitudes of Born-Again Believers who will reject the precious Truths of Scripture, because the Truths of Scripture are not in agreement with what they have been taught.

What should we do when we encounter ideas that are against what we hold true? If we desire to grow in Grace, and in the knowledge of Yahushua, there is only one thing to do when we are in disagreement. Notice the following Scripture passage:

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude 1:3)

Jude tells us that we are to contend, to fight, to struggle to remain in 'The Faith' as it was originally given to the people of YHWH. Some have thought this means physical fighting. However, the wording and context of Jude's epistle tells us exactly what this contending is — a struggle of Truth against Doctrinal error, centered around Leaders who have altered the Biblical subject of 'Grace.' Let's look at how we are to contend.

How Do We Contend for The Faith?

When we are confronted with notions or ideas that may be in error, we are called to contend, or fight to maintain the Truth of The Faith. How do we do this? First, let's see a continuation of the passage regarding contending for The Faith:

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying the only Master YHWH, and our Master Yahushua Messiah. (Jude 1:4)

Here we see confirmed, the reason we must contend. Jude tells us that men had crept in, and had created 'Doctrines of Men' regarding the Biblical Truths of 'Grace.' These Doctrines and Commandments of Men are destructive. As Jude indicates, when these Leaders wrest or twist the Scriptures, and mix them with Doctrines of Men, they cause the denying of Yahushua in the daily lives of the Believers that hear their teaching. But now let's look at the remedy:

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that YHWH, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. (Jude 1:5)

Here we see the call to remember the Scriptures. It is apparent from this passage that these Leaders were not currently teaching Truths of Torah, because Jude tells the Believers they 'once knew' these things, but had forgotten them, and needed to be reminded of these Torah Truths.

When we are studying the Scriptures, reading it for ourselves, then the remedy against the 'Doctrines of Men' is in our weaponry. The Set-apart Spirit, who guides us into all Truth, will bring to our remembrance the things that are truly of YHWH's Word, and "shall show it unto you" (John 16:15; 1John 2:26-27). This is an important part of our 'contending for the faith' — to know, and remember all the Scriptures, and to learn the consequences of abandoning the Commandments of YHWH.

So the remedy is to look at any idea or notion that is taught, against all of Scripture. As we saw in [What You Believe: True or False? The Simple Biblical Test](#), if we see or hear something that is a contradiction of the Scriptures, then we know the idea or notion is not true.

Notice also what Yahushua tells us:

Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: (Luke 24:25)

Here we are told that we are slow of heart ('fools') when we do not believe (become "Do-ers" of) all that the Prophets have spoken. After looking at the life of Yahushua as our example, the words of the Prophets is one of the next tests we may use. If our notion or idea is not in agreement with all that Yahushua did, or if it does not agree with 'all that the Prophets have spoken,' then it is a false notion.

If we would contend for the faith, then we must search the Scriptures, and cry out to YHWH to show us the truth of a matter. We must find either agreement or disagreement of Scripture against an idea or notion, in order to determine its Scriptural validity.

Contending for the Faith: An Example

As an example of contending for The Faith, let's look at a common example most have heard today. Many theological cemeteries (full of dead-men's bones) put forth many

twisted notions about the meaning of the apostle Paul' words. For example, notice Romans 14:1-2:

Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. (Romans 14:1-2)

Some would claim that Paul is saying in Romans 14:1-2, that there are some who are weak in 'The Faith' because they choose not to eat the items forbidden to YHWH's people as listed in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Using this false reasoning, they then put forth the notion that 'Grace' has removed the prohibition against eating these unclean things.

So how do we test this notion? If in all of Scripture there is found disagreement with the notion, or if the idea does not agree with all that the Prophets have spoken, or if there are not found two or three witnesses to establish the idea as true, then the notion is a false notion. Let's notice what Scripture says:

And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you: 11 They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcases in abomination. (Leviticus 11:10-11)

Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing. (Deuteronomy 14:3)

These chapters in Leviticus and Deuteronomy tell us in great detail "these are abomination to you" and "you shall not eat abominable things." So immediately there is direct disagreement of these Scriptures, for nowhere is it written that these Scriptures have been 'taken away' or 'abolished.' We conclude in this case Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 are not in agreement with this notion, so it is a false notion.

Contrary to some of the popular teachings, **there is nothing cancelled under the New Testament except our debt of sin, and nothing done away with or nullified, except the dogma, or decrees of men. Every New Covenant issue regards something that is either fulfilled, or expanded in scope, or transferred in location.** So we see this idea claiming that one is 'weak in The Faith' because he does not eat the 'abominations' of Scripture is a false notion, a "Doctrine of Men" we have encountered.

We are not to add to what Yahushua, or Paul, or the others actually say. Much of Paul's writings, like those of Peter, James, John, and Yahushua, may be hard to understand, according to 2Peter 3:16. Nevertheless, we do not have liberty to make these Scriptures into a teaching that opposes the entire 'written' Word of YHWH. What Paul actually says is what we must go on. It appears that what Paul is saying in Romans 14:2 is that the one who is 'weak' is what we call a 'vegetarian.' And in verses 3 and 4 Paul tells us that even though these vegetarians are weak, we are not to judge them.

"But what about...," as many rightly protest. Very quickly we realise all of these twisted Scriptures are interlocked with other twisted Scriptures, to appear credible. Following our above example, let's notice that men have connected the twisted meaning of Romans 14, to the twisted meaning of what Yahushua said in Mark 7:19. Notice the following:

Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? (Mark 7:19)

Many claim that Yahushua's statement in Mark 7:19 somehow abolishes the prohibition

of eating abominations. But when one reads the verses in Mark chapter 7 in context, the true and clear meaning of this entire message comes out in verse 2:

And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. (Mark 7:2)

Here we see the question is whether a violation of a Talmud ritual of washing hands, and then eating food with these unwashed hands, would somehow defile the eater. Yahushua gives the answer in the ensuing verses, with the conclusion in verse 19. There is no substitute for reading the Scriptures for ourselves!

Let's notice another example within these same passages of Romans 14.

Contending for the Faith: Another Example

Another notion put forth about the words of Paul in Romans 14 is seen below:

One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto YHWH; and he that regardeth not the day, to YHWH he doth not regard it. (Romans 14:5-6a)

Many claim that in the above passage, the apostle Paul says that the keeping of the Sabbath Day is no longer valid for Believers, and that one may regard or disregard the Sabbath Day, as one sees fit. In a slightly different line of reasoning, others claim that keeping any one out of seven days is acceptable to YHWH. To test these notions, let's see what the words of the Prophets have to say about this:

Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. (Isaiah 56:2)

And Set-apart My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am YHWH your Elohim. (Ezekiel 20:20)

But the seventh day is the Sabbath of YHWH thy Elohim: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: (Exodus 20:10)

Oops! These passages in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Leviticus 23, and many others, tell us we are to "set apart as special" YHWH's Sabbaths, and that these Sabbaths are all on appointed, specific days, and not open for our choosing. Looks as if these notions of regarding any day as the Sabbath day, or even any one day out of seven days, are not in agreement with Scripture here either.

So we must conclude that the days to which Paul refers are not days commanded by YHWH, but days not specifically commanded in Scripture, such as the multitude of religious feast days and fasting-days that are prescribed by the Traditions of Men. We also know the apostle Paul would never write anything in his epistles that is contrary to the written Word of Torah!

Why Must We Contend?

We have seen examples of contending for The Faith. But why must we fight to maintain our Faith?

Many do not see the adversary's hidden work going on, so there is a continual struggle, a battle in which we must contend, and fight to maintain *The Faith* as it was once given to the saints. Here is what is happening.

Satan knows he can easily deceive the masses, by using false teachers to twist the Scriptures. Satan desires to lead the Believers astray from 'The Faith,' so that they might not inherit all things (Rev 21:7); that is, he knows they would receive a reduced inheritance in the Kingdom. Satan knows that he could accomplish this if only he could somehow remove the authority of Scripture from the minds of the Believers.

How would satan accomplish this? What would he do to make this happen?

He would begin his 2,000-year program by using an army of corrupt Bible Translators, who would produce corrupted Bible manuscripts, which would later become the basis for all the modern, but corrupted translations. These new versions would omit words, sentences, and entire verses, regarding issues of the person and deity of Yahushua, the redemption by His Blood, and issues of His Kingdom, of Biblical Grace, and of the Hebrew roots of The Faith.

He would then use many corrupt theological cemeteries and Bible Schools to promote these modern but corrupt Bible translations. The so-called scholars at these institutions would devise many man-made Doctrines by twisting the words of Paul. They would then indoctrinate many unsuspecting young people with these poisonous Doctrines. From among these graduates would emerge a few influential but false Pastors, Teachers, and other spiritual Leaders, whose teaching would effectively nullify the authority of 'all that the Prophets have spoken.'

As of the year 2008, all these things have been accomplished.

Doctrines of Devils

What Doctrinal changes have been made since *The Faith* was first delivered?

Over the 2,000-year time span, satan's influence over these men would cause many small changes to be made, with one goal in mind. They would first separate the Scriptures in the people's thinking. They would rename the two sections 'New Testament' and 'Old Testament.' Then, they would need only to twist Paul's writings to make it appear that the 'old' has already disappeared. As a result, they could claim the 'Old Testament' is no longer valid!

This notion alone would easily nullify 'all that the Prophets have spoken,' unless a few people would slip through the System, and would read the words of Paul for themselves. Perhaps some might even read those pesky Words of Yahushua in Luke 24:25, or begin to seek Wisdom by reading the Proverbs.

But there is much work to be done in twisting Paul's words. How would they pull this off?

The theological cemeteries have attempted to counter 'all that the Prophets have spoken' by re-defining certain Biblical words, and by inventing new words and terms. Thus they have used these re-defined and man-made words, terms and phrases to wage war against the foundation of Scripture.

Today there are many well-meaning Pastors, Teachers, and other spiritual Leaders who have graduated from these corrupt schools, who attempt to teach Scripture using these re-defined words and non-Biblical terms. These man-made words should be a red-flag, warning us of deception, and of a deceiver.

These re-defined and man-made words, terms and phrases include such non-Biblical phrases as 'ceremonial laws,' 'Age of Grace,' 'Age of Law,' 'Dispensation of Grace,' 'unmerited favour,' 'missing the mark' and many others. Have we noticed how many of these false notions center around the same issue of 'Grace?' Jude has already warned us!

Remember Jude's Warning

Let us be reminded of Jude's warning:

"... certain men crept in unawares ... turning ... grace ... into lasciviousness and denying ... our Master Yahushua Messiah. (Jude 1:4)

As a result of men who have crept in unawares, there is much teaching today of non-Biblical *Grace*. Some who embrace this error may choose to ignore the words of the Prophets, and that is their prerogative. Yahushua said those who do so, are '*slow of heart*,' and are among the 'foolish.' When the Bridegroom returns, some Believers will be among the wise, and some among the foolish.

Everyone must choose for themselves.

Conclusion

There is much over which we must contend for The Faith. Notice however, that both examples in the above passages of Romans 14 have one common feature. At the conclusion of each idea presented in Romans 14:4 and 14:10, we see that YHWH's people are told not to judge others regarding these matters. Thus we are cautioned against judging others who may not be walking in the truths of Scripture.

We are not called to judge others, but we are called to examine ourselves, to test ourselves, to see whether we are still in 'The Faith.'