

Contending for THE Faith

Back to the Basics | Week 5

Hayden | October 15th & October 18th 2026 | Gabe Cleave



Jude 1:3–4 (NIV) “Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.”

The faith has been handed down and entrusted to us. We are responsible to contend for it.

To contend means to: fight, labor fervently, strive, struggle.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH

The foundational, non-negotiable beliefs of biblical, historical Christianity:

- 1. Authority of Scripture
- 2. The Trinity
- 3. The Person of Jesus
- 4. The Atonement of Jesus
- 5. Salvation by Grace Through Faith
- 6. Loving God and Others

Some beliefs or movements redefine or reject these foundations: Mormonism, Islam, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Progressive Christianity, Syncretism, and the Prosperity Gospel.

HOW DO WE CONTEND FOR THE FAITH?

1. KNOW THE FAITH

John 8:31b–32 (NIV) — Hold to Jesus’ teaching; know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

We must spend time in the Word of God, becoming familiar with it.

Matthew 24:35 (NIV) — “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV) — The wise builder hears Jesus’ words and puts them into practice.

Knowing God’s Word means both hearing it and putting it into practice.

2. LIVE THE FAITH

1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV) — “Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them...”

Philippians 1:27 (NIV) — Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 5:16 (NIV) — Let your light shine so others see your good deeds and glorify the Father.

We contend for the faith not just by what we believe, but by how we live.

3. TEACH THE FAITH

1 Timothy 4:1, 6, 11, 15 (NIV) — Some will abandon the faith; point out truth, teach it, and give yourself wholly to it.

2 Timothy 2:23–26 (NKJV) — Avoid foolish disputes; be gentle, patient, able to teach, and correct with humility.

Speak the truth in love.

“We cannot be jerks for Jesus!”

1 Corinthians 13:1–7 (NLT) — Without love, even great knowledge, faith, sacrifice, and speech amount to nothing. Love is patient and kind.

