Common Struggles (Part 1, Jude 3)

Tony Mauck · Jude 1:3–4

INTRODUCTION

- I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints.
- Grace is an amazing thing. It covers our sin, but it is not without a certain response that God expects from us, a certain effort to defeat temptation in our lives.
- Not only do we have a wonderful and common salvation, we experience common struggles as well. And the first thing I want to say about that this morning is that you are not alone.

1 Impediments to Worshiping God

- Obstacles, things that stand in the way of worshiping God with his people, or even in our own individual daily lives.
- I really think that's our biggest issue is the way we see worship.
- God is deserving of this. And Jesus, our Savior, is deserving.
- Quit looking at them like they're yours. We're only stewards of these things.
- This is the supreme activity of our lives. It doesn't get any higher than this.
- In a self-indulgent society, we need this. We need to learn a little self-sacrifice.

2 Relationships Can Be a Struggle

Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 12:15

- We get sideways with people. People get sideways with us. And sometimes it's some of the closest relationships on earth.
- But the wisdom of Scripture is the same. The soft answer turns away wrath.
- Be a healer. How can I heal? How can I repair this? What can I do to make this situation better?
- As much as lies within you, be at peace with all men.
- Sometimes you just got to take it on the chin. It's not that big a deal. Be defrauded. Jesus was defrauded for us.

3 Frustration and Pain and Weary

- You just need to realize you're not going to be at your best when you are experiencing frustration and pain and you're tired.
- Do not become weary in doing good. For in due time, we shall reap if we do not grow weary.
- In the midst of your pain, as a Christian, I have salvation. I have the peace of God that surpasses all comprehension.

4 We Crave Things

Psalm 106:14

- They craved intensely in the wilderness and tempted God in the desert.
- A lot of our struggle is we just want things. We want them. We crave them intensely.
- There is sin and enslavement there. Desires are natural.
- I can acknowledge the beauty of this thing or this person, but I don't have a right to that.
- So often we get in trouble with cravings when we don't recognize the limits or the dangers of satisfying the cravings.

5 Words Can Be a Struggle

James 3; James 1:26

- If we don't bridle our tongues, our religion is vain.
- Guard your heart and your tongue, and you will guard your soul from troubles.
- It is a powerful instrument for good as well as evil.
- I am only going to use my tongue for things that advance righteousness, that advance goodness, that help, that praise.

THE CHALLENGE

Could it be a defining moment? I'm going to go in a better direction. Will this increase your zeal and dedication to the Lord? Will this be a moment? That you choose a higher course for living.

MY NOTES