



WORLD HARVEST NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

Raising Godly Leaders

P r e s e n t s

Equip Leadership Retreat

Theme:

CONTENDING

For The

F A I T H

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A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE OF WORLD HARVEST NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

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CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

Introducing

WORLD HARVEST NETWORK INTERNATIONAL

A ministry committed to: Leadership Development,
Mission & Church Planting

“Equipping the Saints for the end-time Harvest”

OUR STRATEGIES

1. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Equipping and Raising Godly Leaders through Leadership programmes, conducting leadership retreats and school of leadership around the world.

2. WORLD MISSIONS:

Reaching the unreached through preaching, teaching and conducting training programmes, making disciples of all nations and helping the poor, the under privileged and the neglected through our outreach programme

DORCAS FOUNDATION.

3. CHURCH PLANTING:

The Church arm, Grace Covenant Assembly carries out Church planting outreaches and equipping of the Saints through monthly Faith Seminars and Radio Programme titled Living by Faith and our Faithville publication.



CONTENDING *For The* **FAITH**

CONTENTS

Introduction

Part one **Contending For The Faith**

Part two **Attributes Of The Faith**



CONTENDING *For The* FAITH

Introduction

Beloved. I welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to this retreat. I trust the Lord that it's going to be a very rewarding time in His Presence.

The issue we are considering as we retreat under God has been the major issue since the beginning of the Church. It's not a contemporary issue. However this issue is getting more critical as the end of time draws closer.

Every sincere and genuine child of God should therefore pay very close attention to this issue of “Contending For The Faith” that was delivered to the Saints.

Hebrew 2:1

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Quite a lot of things are slipping from the Church today. Focus has seriously shifted from the Faith that was delivered to the Saints. What we have today is what Apostle Paul called another Gospel.

As we retreat under God, may we encounter Him afresh and recover from every satanic deception that has bedeviled the Church in these end times.

Once again, you're welcome.

AKINLOLU RAPHAEL



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

PART ONE

CONTENDING

For The

FAITH



CONTENDING *For The* FAITH

PART ONE

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Jude 1:1-4

1. Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

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

3. 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.

4. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are two key words we need to understand as we examine the theme of this retreat.

CONTEND

To contend means to fight for. Stand for.

Jude 1:3(MSG)

3. Dear friends, I've dropped everything to write you about this life of salvation that we have in common. I have to write insisting--begging!--that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.

You contend. You fight with everything you have. You guard jealously what you cherish.

Who is he referring to and asking to contend? To fight? And why? What's the necessity?



CONTENDING *For The* FAITH

Jude 1:4

The servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude by the Holy Spirit is writing to a peculiar kind of people. A special kind of people - to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

These are believers. Men & women who have genuinely encountered Christ. Those that have experienced the common salvation entrusted to us as a gift.

Their lives are transformed. They are new creatures. They are in the world but they are no longer of the world.

Beloved, if you know the value of the salvation we have in Christ, you will contend, you will fight for it with everything you have.

Today the average believer stands for nothing when it comes to the common salvation.

The average believer is ready to compromise the common salvation at any little discomfort.

To the average believer, personal convictions has taken flight. It is now the era of political/ religious correctness.

CHRIST OUR PERFECT EXAMPLE

John 2:13-17

13. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16. And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

17. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

The Christian life is a very unique life. It is Christ Himself living His life in us and through us. As a Christian, as a believer, born again, someone who has encountered Christ, you do not have a life of your own.

Gal 2:20.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth In me: and the life which I now live In the flesh I live by faith of Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The Spirit of Christ lives inside us. Therefore whatever consumes Christ, should also automatically consume us if indeed He is living His life through us.

Is Christ living His life through you? Or you are just living your own life independent of Him?

If Christ is living His life through you, what consumes Christ should automatically consume you.

What is your zeal? What is your meat? What consumes you?

John 4:31-34

Something is either consuming you or you are consuming something.

Ministry is not about us. It is not about clout chasing. It is about God and His eternal purpose.

Do not be in Ministry to chase clout. Do not be in Ministry for celebrity status.

Make doing God's will your purpose in life. Jesus is the only one to celebrate in Ministry.

BENEFICIARY OR STAKEHOLDER

You cannot contend for what you don't have a stake in.

You have to be a stakeholder to have the focus to contend.

Contending is not for just beneficiaries but for stakeholders.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Any time you compromise your convictions because of personal gains and benefits, you are denying the Christ that bought you and to that extent, you are acting not as a stakeholder but as a beneficiary.

Rom 9:1-3

9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Roman 9:1-3 (MSG)

9:1 At the same time, you need to know that I carry with me at all times a huge sorrow.

9:2 It's an enormous pain deep within me, and I'm never free of it. I'm not exaggerating--Christ and the Holy Spirit are my witnesses. It's the Israelites . . .

9:3 If there were any way I could be cursed by the Messiah so they could be blessed by him, I'd do it in a minute. They're my family

This has baffled me for years. People try to be in the good books of people at the



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

expense of their personal convictions.

Gal 2:11-14

The fear of man and the desire to please men have made many to make shipwreck of their faith in Christ.

Phil 3:17-19

3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.

3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

If when we preach it, and we do not live it, then we are hypocrites.

LOST OF FOCUS

There has been total lost of focus in the last 25 - 30 years. We now live for results.

Beloved God did not call us to be successful but to be faithful

Mt 25:20-21

The Lord said thou faithful servant not thou successful servant.

Selfishness, self centeredness has taken over in Ministries.

It is no longer about God and His purpose. It is now about us and our success and our achievements.

Nothing demonstrates our total lost of focus as the way Ministers now contend for titles. We contend for positions.

If you have been in Ministry for some years, you feel you needed now to be



CONTENDING

For The FAITH

promoted to Bishop or Apostle.

Brethren, our focus has shifted.

When we were Brothers and Sisters, before we entered into the grace of Ministry, we were very faithful to the Lord and our focus was on Him.

But now that we are in Ministry by God's grace, our focus and allegiance have shifted to ourselves.

The proof that we are not contending is the state of the Church today.

I shared along this line somewhere about the present state of the Church and a Bishop countered that even Christ had Judas!

WHY DO WE HAVE TO CONTEND

We need to contend - fight for the faith because there are many counterfeit versions of the faith.

Gal 1:6-11

2 Tim 2:15-21

1Tim 1:18-20

THE FAITH

The second key word we need to examine is The Faith.

Jude 1:1-4

1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

1:2 Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

1:3 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.

1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old



CONTENDING

For The **FAITH**

ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

What the Bible refers to as THE FAITH is the body of beliefs that constitutes Biblical Christianity.

Christianity is a Faith just as we have other Faiths like Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism etc.

What separates these Faiths are their beliefs systems.

SPIRITUAL FORCE OF FAITH

The Faith is different from the spiritual force of faith that comes by hearing and hearing the Word.

This is the spiritual force that enables us to receive what God has provided in Christ. The faith by which we please God.

Hebrew 11:1-6

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

The faith describes here, is the spiritual gift of faith by which the provisions of the Christian Faith. The faith by which we are saved and please God.

Eph 2:8

The gift of faith is what enables us to live the Christian life and experience here all that the Lord Jesus Christ has wrought for us in redemption.

THE FAITH, however, refers to the body of truths that constitute the Christian belief.

It refers to that which we believe that determines our eternal destiny.

THE FAITH WAS DELIVERED

Jude 1:3

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.

The Christian Faith was delivered to us. It is not man made. It is not subject to man's opinions. It is not the product of human imaginations.

It is the Christian Faith as delivered to the Saints, that we're to contend for.

This is the body of truths or doctrines that is referred to as the common salvation.

This is our hope in Christ as the Redeemer Lord and Savior.

Rom 6:17

1Tim 4:16

2Tim 4:3

ARE YOU STILL IN THE FAITH?

1Tim 4:1-2

1Cor 16:13

2Cor 13:5



CONTENDING *For The* **FAITH**

PART TWO

ATTRIBUTES
Of The
FAITH

BY

REV. AKINLOLU RAPHAEL



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

PART TWO

ATTRIBUTES OF THE FAITH

Rom 6:17

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

The faith that was once delivered to the saints has certain fundamental attributes that separates it from other faiths.

Christianity is not the only faith. There are other faiths. Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Bahar etc.

Ecumenism is from the pit of hell.

Eph 4:1-6

1. CHRIST THE CENTER

1Cor 3:11

John 17:3

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Everything is under His supervision and Direction. You do not do anything in the faith without His express instruction and Direction. You do not do your own thing.

John 5:30

Act 16:6-10

There is a spirit behind every Faith.

1John 4:1

The revelation you are sharing, who gave them to you?

Is it by the Holy Spirit or some other spirits?



CONTENDING For The FAITH

The prophecy you are giving, who gave them to you?

Acts 16:16-18

She was bringing much gain to her masters. This is the reason why people are easily deceived by wrong spirits. Because of much gain.

1Pet 5:1-2.

Here Peter admonished not that Ministry is not for filthy lucre.

The bible says in the end times, people will not be able to endure sound doctrines.

1 Tim 4:1-2.

2 Tim 4:3-4.

They'll have teachers.

Are you God's Minister or the people's Minister?

They were in The Faith but departed from The Faith.

You can be in Church but have departed from The Faith.

You can be ministering but have departed from The Faith.

You can be an Apostle or a Bishop but have departed from the faith.

Are you still in the Faith?

One major danger people fall into is underestimating the devil.

Am I celebrating the devil? You underestimate the devil to your eternal peril.

Beloved our only place of safety is in Christ. In our total submission to His Lordship over our lives.

2 Peter 2:1-3,
Jude 1:4



CONTENDING

For The FAITH

3. SEALED IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINES

Gal 1:8-9

No more new revelation outside of what has been revealed to the Apostles

4. TRANSFORMATIONAL

The faith that was once delivered to the saints transformed people's lives

2Cor 5:17

Produces a new creation - new people - transformed lives.

5. CHANGES YOUR FOCUS IN LIFE

Produces A Paradigm Shift. Does not only change you but your focus in life.

You are not longer ruled by ambitions but by the Heavenly vision Of God's purpose and plans for your lives.

You no longer live for self but for Him who loves you and died for you.

Your interests and affections are forever changed

6. PRODUCES GOOD WORKS - SHOWS IN THEIR WORKS

Eph 2:10

Tit 2:12

Jam 2:18-20

7. ACTIVATED BY FAITH

Eph. 2:8

8. EMPOWERS

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:33

(a) To be a witness

(b) To live right

(c) Dominion over Satan & his forces - Makes/ Gives you victory over sin, Satan & his forces.



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

9. MANIFESTS GOD'S LOVE

John 13:35

1John 4:7-13

10. ETERNITY FOCUSED.

Titus 2:12-15

Retreat Songs

Christ is our corner-stone

1. *Christ is our corner-stone,
On him alone we build;
With his true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled:
On his great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.*
2. *Oh, then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious Name.*
3. *Here may we gain from heaven
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore,
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.*



CONTENDING

For The FAITH

Fight the good fight

1. *Fight the good fight with all thy
might!
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy
right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.*
2. *Run the straight race through God's
good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.*
3. *Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall
prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.*
4. *Faint not nor fear, His arms are
near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.*

He who would valiant be

1. *He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.*
2. *Who so beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound—
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight;
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.*
3. *Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
us with Thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day
to be a pilgrim.*

I Pledge Allegiance To The Lamb

I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
With all my strength, with all I am
I will seek to honor His commands
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
I have heard how Christians long ago
Were brought before a tyrant's throne
They were told that he would spare their lives
If they would renounce the name of Christ
But one by one they chose to die
The Son of God they would not deny
Like a great angelic choir sings
I can almost hear their voices ring
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
With all my strength, with all I am
I will seek to honor His commands
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
Now the years have come, and the years have gone
But the cause of Jesus still goes on
Now our time has come to count the cost
To reject this world, to embrace the cross
And one by one let us live our lives
For the one who died to give us life
Till the trumpet sounds on the final day
Let us proudly stand and boldly say
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
With all my strength, with all I am
I will seek to honor His commands
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
To the Lamb of God who bore my pain
Who took my place, who wore my shame
I will seek to honor His commands
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb
With all my strength, with all I am
I will seek to honor His commands
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb



CONTENDING

For The

FAITH

Olori Ojo T'orun

1. Olori ijo t'orun
L'ayo l'a wole fun O.
Ki O to de, ijo l'aye;
Y'o ma korin bi t'orun;
A gbe okan wa s'oke,
Ni 'reti l'o ni 'bukun;
Awa kigbe, awa f'iyin
F'Olorun igbala wa.

2. "Gbat' awa ninu ponju
Ta nkoja ninu ina
Orin ife l'awa o ko
Ti o nmu wa sun mo O;
Awa sope, a si yo
Ninu ojurerere Re
Ife t'o so wa di Tire
Y'o se wa ni Tire lai

3. Iwo mu awon enia Re
Koja isan idanwo
A ki o beru wahala
"Tori O wa nitosi
Aiye, ese, at'esu
Kojuja si wa lasan
L'agbara Re, a o segun
A o si ko orin Mose

4. Awa figbagbo r'ogo
Ti o tun nfe fi wa si
Awa kegan aiye 'tori
Ere nla iwaju wa
Bi o ba si ka wa ye
Awa pelu Stefen t'o sun
Y'o ri O bi o ti duro
Lati pe wa lo s'orun.



**WORLD HARVEST INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

Raising Godly Leaders

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

COURSES

- * **What is Christian Leadership?**
- * **The Leader as a Disciple**
- * **Discovering your Leadership Potential**
- * **Developing your Leadership Potential**
- * **Biblical Models of Leadership**
- * **Introduction to Christian Discipleship**
- * **Characteristics of Christian Discipleship**
- * **The Power of Vision**
- * **Leadership and Excellence**
- * **Leadership and Integrity**
- * **The Challenge of Change**
- * **The Challenge of Temptation**
- * **The Challenge of Relationship**
- * **The Challenge of Stewardship**
- * **The Challenge of Faith**

- ★ **The School holds every year from January - February at Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.**
- ★ **The School is a vision to raise Godly Leaders who will exercise Godly Influence at their place of Leadership.**
- ★ **Arrangement can also be made for Churches/Ministers to host the School at their locations.**