



At the heart of the New Testament there is a brief text, almost hidden among longer letters, which nevertheless contains a spiritual warning of enormous relevance today. It is the **Letter of Saint Jude**, a text so short that in many Bibles it occupies barely a single page, yet so powerful that it seems to have been written precisely for our own era.

We live in times of spiritual confusion, moral relativism, and constantly shifting doctrines. Precisely for this reason, the voice of Saint Jude resonates today with surprising clarity: **to guard the true faith, to defend it, and to live it faithfully.**

This article aims to approach this letter from three perspectives: its **history**, its **profound theological teaching**, and its **pastoral application for Christian life today.**

1. Who was Saint Jude? The apostle behind the letter

The author of this epistle introduces himself simply in these words:

| *“Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James.” (Jude 1:1)*

Christian tradition identifies the author with **Saint Jude Thaddeus**, one of the Twelve Apostles. He must not be confused with **Judas Iscariot**, the betrayer. The name Jude was quite common in the Jewish world of the first century.

Saint Jude Thaddeus appears in the Gospels as one of the disciples chosen by Christ. In the Gospel of John he asks a profound question during the Last Supper:

| *“Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” (John 14:22)*

After the Resurrection and Pentecost, tradition holds that he preached the Gospel in several



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regions of the East, probably in Syria, Mesopotamia, and Persia, where he eventually died as a martyr.

Today he is popularly known as **the patron saint of difficult or desperate causes**, but above all he was **a passionate defender of the apostolic faith**.

2. A small book with an urgent message

The **Letter of Saint Jude** is one of the shortest texts in the New Testament: only **25 verses**.

Yet its purpose is very clear: **to warn Christians about false teachers who were infiltrating the community**.

Saint Jude himself explains why he writes:

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered the saints.”
(Jude 1:3)

This sentence contains a fundamental theological idea:

Christian faith does not change nor is it reinvented. It has been delivered “once for all.”

In other words:

- Christ entrusted the truth to the apostles.
- The apostles transmitted it to the Church.
- The Church preserves it faithfully.

In Catholic theology, this is related to the concept of the **deposit of faith**.



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3. The great problem denounced by the letter

Saint Jude describes a serious situation: **people within the Christian community were distorting the Gospel.**

They were not enemies from outside.

They were **false Christians within the Church itself.**

The apostle writes:

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality.” (Jude 1:4)

Here appears one of the great spiritual temptations of all times: **using the mercy of God as an excuse for sin.**

In other words:

- God forgives → therefore it does not matter how we live.
- God is love → therefore sin no longer exists.
- Christ saved everyone → therefore conversion is unnecessary.

Saint Jude responds firmly: **this is a distortion of the Gospel.**

Grace does not abolish morality.

Grace **transforms life.**

4. A warning based on salvation history

To explain the danger of infidelity, Saint Jude recalls several biblical episodes well known to the first Christians.



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1. The people who left Egypt but were later punished

God liberated Israel from slavery, yet many perished because of their unbelief.

2. The fallen angels

Even angels, created for glory, can fall because of rebellion.

3. Sodom and Gomorrah

An example of moral corruption and its consequences.

Through these examples the message becomes clear:

salvation is a gift, but it requires fidelity.

5. False teachers according to Saint Jude

Saint Jude describes false teachers using very powerful images.

He says they are:

- **“clouds without water”**
- **“trees without fruit”**
- **“wandering stars”**

These metaphors reveal something profound.

They appear promising... yet they do not give life.

In today's terms we might think of:

- spiritual ideologies that dilute the Gospel;
- religious leaders who empty the Christian message of its meaning;
- cultural movements that redefine good and evil.

Saint Jude is not afraid to speak clearly because **faith is a treasure that must be**



protected.

6. A key phrase for understanding Christianity

One of the most important verses of the entire letter says:

| *“Keep yourselves in the love of God.” (Jude 1:21)*

This sentence summarizes the whole Christian life.

It is not enough to have believed once.
Faith must **remain alive**.

Saint Jude proposes three concrete paths:

1. **building yourselves up in the faith**
2. **praying in the Holy Spirit**
3. **waiting for the mercy of Christ**

It is a true spiritual program.

7. The pastoral dimension of the letter

The Letter of Saint Jude is not only a warning. It is also a pastoral guide for dealing with those who have fallen into error.

It says:

| *“Have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and to others show mercy with fear.” (Jude 1:22-23)*



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Here appears a very important pastoral principle:

not everyone who is in confusion bears the same responsibility.

Some people:

- need teaching;
- others need correction;
- others need mercy.

The Church has always applied this principle in her mission.

8. A surprisingly relevant message

Many theologians consider this letter **prophetic for the contemporary Church**.

We live in an era marked by:

- moral relativism;
- doctrinal confusion;
- spirituality without commitment;
- reinterpretations of the Gospel.

Saint Jude reminds us of one essential truth:

faith does not adapt to the world; the world must convert to the Gospel.

This does not mean harshness or fanaticism.

It means **fidelity to Christ**.

9. How can we apply Saint Jude's teaching today?

The Letter of Saint Jude offers several practical lessons for Christians today.



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1. Know the faith

One cannot defend what one does not know.

Therefore it is important to:

- read the Bible;
- study the Catechism;
- receive formation in the faith.

2. Do not be carried away by every doctrine

Saint Jude invites us to practice discernment.

Not everything that appears spiritual comes from God.

3. Live a coherent faith

Grace is not a license to sin.

True faith transforms life.

4. Help those who doubt

The Christian does not live in isolation.

He has the mission of accompanying others.

10. The final doxology: one of the most beautiful prayers of the New Testament

The letter ends with a prayer of praise of great beauty:

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the



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only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 1:24-25)

It is a conclusion full of hope.

After warning about spiritual dangers, Saint Jude reminds us of a fundamental truth:

it is God who sustains believers.

Salvation does not depend only on our strength.

It depends above all **on the grace of God.**

11. A small book that deserves to be rediscovered

The Letter of Saint Jude is one of the most overlooked texts of the New Testament, yet also one of the most necessary.

It reminds us that:

- faith is a treasure;
- truth matters;
- grace requires conversion;
- the Church needs faithful and strong Christians.

In times of confusion, the voice of this apostle once again resounds with strength.

His message can be summarized in a few words:

remain in the faith, live in grace, and do not be afraid to defend the Gospel.

✓ Because sometimes **the smallest books of the Bible contain the greatest warnings**



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for our spiritual life.