



“Earnestly Contending for the Faith” (Pt. 1) **(Biblical Faith vs. Apostasy)**

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jude 3)

Apostasy: the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief. The term **apostasy** comes from the Greek word *apostasy* ("ἀποστασία") meaning "defection", "departure", "revolt" or "rebellion". An act of refusing to continue to follow, obey, or recognize a religious faith. The abandonment of a previous loyalty; defection. The falling away, withdrawal, or abandonment of a previously held belief.

Also, God’s presence and power has been with the NT Church from its inception with preservation of God’s Word along with His Supernatural intervention throughout these past 2,000 years. Yet, this same church has had many elements of apostasy throughout this time.

- 1) The Infancy of the Israeli congregation into the Promised Land to its establishment therein (Numbers 16)
- 2) The Infancy of the NT Church to its establishment in the world (Jude)

This two-part series is 2 Journeys that can also be subtitled as ***“God’s People versus Apostasy”*** ...

I. The Initial Acts of Apostasy (Genesis 3:1-7 & selected scriptures)

The initial questioning, doubting, and challenging of God’s **Word** started way back at the beginning of time by the Serpent in the Garden of Eden. This appeal was to the first couple’s newly fallen nature of ...

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (Genesis 3:1-7; NKJV)

- Lust of the flesh - *“you shall not surely die”*
 - *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,”*
- Lust of the eye - *“eyes will be opened”*
 - *“and that it was pleasant to the eyes,”*
- Pride of life - *“you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*
 - *“and a tree to be desired to make one wise,”*

II. The Illicit Acts of Apostasy (Numbers 16:1-36 & selected scriptures)

Apostasy is manifested by misrepresenting, questioning, or perverting 4 areas of God’s program. Here in Numbers 16:1-36 reprobate opposition comes against Moses, as God’s supreme representative in the form of this unholy alliance of Korah, Dathan, & Abiram along with 250 princes of the assembly. They stood up and questioned Moses’ calling and authority in that he...

- 1) ...had a Mandate from God
- 2) ...delivered the Message from God
- 3) ...had the Motives of a Man of God
- 4) ...was given Methods to serve as a Man of God -

Here's the truth about the man, Moses, the servant of the Lord...

1. **The Mandate of the Man of God** - His status was irrefutably the Supreme Representative of God’s authority here on earth to God’s people along with the exclusivity of the priesthood of Aaron. Moses was the most humble man ever.
2. **The Message of the Man of God** - was communicated to Moses by God by **DIRECT** revelation and instructions from God Almighty. Reiterating and re-emphasizing the revealed will of God with signs and wonders (supernatural acts in Egypt, supernatural deliverance from Egypt, supernatural sustenance in the wilderness, supernatural victories over enemies along their journey, etc.) which culminated in the promise of conquering, subduing, and inheriting the Promised Land.
3. **The Motive of the Man of God** - He thought that this calling was way too high for him and tried to get out of it when God initially called him. (Exodus chs. 3 & 4)
4. **The Method of the Man of God** - that Moses carried was nothing less than exactly what the Lord had instructed him to relay to the people.

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. But the prayer of the upright is His delight.” (Proverbs 15:8; NKJV)

“The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!” (Proverbs 21:27; NKJV)

III. The Internal Acts of Apostasy (Sunday, May 22nd)

IV. The Intimate Acts of Apostasy (Sunday, May 22nd)