

Spiritually Sure-Footed (Part 1)

(Jude 24-25) is the benediction to the book of Jude. Today's lesson comes from an interesting doctrinal statement Jude made in this benediction.

This benediction is one Greek sentence.

(Jude 24-25) "**Now to Him who is able** (definite article + dunamai / p.a.ptc.dsm) [Omnipotence] **to keep** (phulasso / a.a.infin) [Guard or protect] **you** (a.pl.m) **from stumbling** (aptaistos / adj), and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."

This text teaches the doctrinal principle that the omnipotent power of God is able to keep the Church Age Believer (CAB) spiritually 'sure-footed' so as not to stumble or fall.

<p>This lesson will study three aspects of being spiritually Sure-footed.</p>
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1. Jude used a Greek word to teach this doctrine that was never used anywhere else in the NT.

He used the Greek word (aptaistos) [The use of the alpha privative (a/ptaistos) means without and ptaio means to stumble]

When these two words are put together it means without stumbling. Aptaistos means without stumbling so as not to fall because you are sure-footed or steady on your feet.

Jude attached a military word to strengthen its meaning (phulasso) [to guard so as **to keep** protected, like a sentry on duty]. Jesus used **phulasso** in His upper room prayer:

(Jn.17:12) "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; **and I guarded them, and not one of them** perished **but** the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled (Ps.41:9; Jn.10:28-30)."

Jesus held on to them with one hand and fought the devil with the other hand (Matt.4; 16:21-23).

2. The major point about being spiritually 'sure-footed' in the Christian Way of Life is that it is 100% dependent on the Grace of God -"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling."

The Greek word for **able** is (dunamai) [power] but when combined with a definite article (The), [dunamai / p.a.ptc.dsm] refers to God's Omnipotence. It means accessing the omnipotent power of God so as to be 'sure-footed', not falling and having the strength to endure.

(Phil.4:13) "I can do all things through Him who strengthened (dunamai) me." (2 Cor.12:9; Rom.8:26-27)

It is essential for the CAB to be Grace Oriented in the CWL.

(Col.1:11-12) "**Strengthened** (dunamai) **with all power** (dunamis), according to **His glorious might**, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."

(Rom.4:21) "And being fully assured that what He had promised, **He was able** (dunatos) also to perform." [The Faith Cycle]

Two examples: (David and Abraham)

David: As a young mature believer, **David** engaged Goliath. Worldly viewpoint didn't give David much of a chance. He was young and inexperienced in military warfare **but not** in spiritual warfare (1 Sam.17:33). David went and fought sure-footedly with confidence that God was able (1 Sam.17:32-37, 45-47). He didn't stumble or fall because he didn't go or fight in his own strength. David was a mature believer at an early age but struggle later in life as a spiritual leader because of rebellion against the directive will of God (1 Cor.16:13; 2 Sam.11-12; 1 John 2:15-17).

Abraham was the opposite. He struggled in earlier years as a believer. But he pulled it together in the latter years. For example, when he went to mountain to offer his heir-son, he was sure-footed with confidence that God was able and he did not stumble or fall (Gen.22; James 2:21-24; Heb.11:17; Rom.4:16-24).

3. There are several reasons for a believer to lose his spiritual sure-footedness and to stumble and fall.

We will look at **five reasons**.

- **It could be** cosmic fear like David's brothers, King Saul, and Israelite soldiers (1 Sam.17:11-13, 24). The very things that caused them to fear were the very things that rallied David to battle (1 Sam.17:26, 32, 47, 50; 2 Cor.10:4-5).
- **It could be** doubt creating double-mindedness like Thomas regarding resurrection appearances of Jesus (John 20:24-29). The very thing that brought great joy and a special ministry of the Holy Spirit to the other disciples; had left Thomas struggling with doubt (John 20:19-23; Matt.21:21; James 1:6-8; 2 Cor.5:7)
- **It could be** setting the mind on man's interests over God's like Peter regarding the passion of Christ that caused him to stumble and fall (Matt.16:21-23; Col.3:1-3; Matt.26:1-2, 33-34; 74-75).
- **It could be** the every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us like David-Bathsheba / Uriah that causes him to stumble and fall (Heb.12:1-3; 2 Sam.11-12; Ps.51:4, 6, 10, 12-13/ restoration of fellowship).
- **It could be** the **grasshopper victim complex** like the 10 out of the 12 spies (Num.13:28, 31-33). The very thing that caused the grasshopper victim complex in the 10; was the very thing that caused the grace victory complex in Joshua and Caleb (Num.13:30; 14:8- 12)

(Num.14:9) "Only **do not** rebel against the Lord; and **do not** fear the people of the land, for they are our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; **do not** fear them." [Note the 3 negatives and the 3 positives]

CONCLUSION: The Will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not Keep You!

This was **Jude's closing message** to Contenders of Faith:

(Jude 24) "Now **to Him who is able** to keep you from stumbling, **and** (to Him who is able) to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy."

Remember **Jude's opening message**:

(Jude 3b) "I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once handed down to the saints." (2 Cor.5:7)