

# Defending What We Believe

*Week 1: Why What We Believe Matters*

*A Bible Study by Apostle Robert J. Douglas Jr.*

## Opening Thought: Why Stand for Our Faith?

*“I felt the need to write and urge you to fight for the faith that was once and for all given to God’s people.” — Jude 1:3*

Jude’s words are urgent. He’s not writing casually—he’s sounding an alarm. The faith we hold isn’t just personal; it’s sacred, historic, and worth protecting. It was “once and for all delivered,” meaning it doesn’t change with culture, trends, or opinions. It’s the same truth passed down from Christ to the apostles, and now to us.

To “fight for the faith” doesn’t mean being combative—it means being committed. It’s about standing firm when others compromise, speaking truth when it’s unpopular, and living in a way that reflects what we believe. In a world full of shifting values, defending our faith means anchoring ourselves in God’s Word and helping others find that same anchor.

This week, we begin by asking:

**Why does what we believe matter so much—and how do we stay rooted in it?**

## Core Scriptures

- **2 Timothy 3:16–17** – Scripture equips us for every good work.
- **Titus 1:9** – Leaders must hold tightly to sound teaching.
- **Acts 17:11** – The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily to confirm truth.

## What These Verses Teach Us

### 1. God’s Word Is Our Foundation

Paul reminds Timothy that Scripture isn’t just helpful—it’s essential. It’s breathed out by God Himself. That means every verse carries divine authority and purpose. It teaches us what’s true, corrects us when we’re off course, and trains us to live rightly.

When we defend our faith, we’re not defending opinions—we’re standing on the Word of God. And that Word equips us to live with wisdom, courage, and clarity.

### 2. We Must Hold Tight to Truth

Paul’s instruction to Titus is clear: leaders must cling to the truth. But this isn’t just for pastors—it’s for every believer. “Holding fast” means gripping tightly, refusing to let go. In a world full of spiritual confusion, we need to know what we believe and why.

Sound doctrine isn’t cold—it’s life-giving. It helps us encourage others and gently correct those who are misled. When we know the truth, we can speak it with love and confidence.

### 3. We Should Be Eager to Learn

The Bereans didn't just listen—they investigated. They were hungry for truth and didn't settle for surface-level teaching. They opened their Bibles daily, checking everything against God's Word.

This is the posture we need: open-hearted, open-eyed, and open-Bible. Defending our faith starts with knowing it deeply—and that means becoming students of Scripture, not just listeners.

#### Why This Matters Today — And How It Connects to God's Plan of Salvation

We live in a world full of noise—opinions, philosophies, spiritual trends, and shifting values. People are searching for meaning, identity, and hope, but many are being led away from truth by teachings that sound good but lack power. That's why defending what we believe isn't optional—it's essential.

When we know what we believe, we're not just protecting doctrine—we're protecting people. We're guarding the path that leads to life. And that path is the gospel: **God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

#### God's Plan of Salvation: The Heart of Our Faith

At the center of everything we believe is this truth:

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."* — John 3:16

God's plan of salvation is simple, yet profound:

- **Creation:** God made us in His image, for relationship and purpose.
- **Fall:** Sin entered the world through disobedience, separating us from God.
- **Redemption:** Jesus came—fully God and fully man—to live a sinless life, die in our place, and rise again.
- **Restoration:** Through faith in Christ, we're forgiven, made new, and invited into eternal life.

This is the message we defend—not just with words, but with our lives. It's not about being right—it's about being rooted in the truth that saves.

#### How to Lead Someone to Christ

*Helping others take the most important step of their life*

Leading someone to Jesus isn't about having all the right words—it's about sharing the truth of the gospel with love, clarity, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Here's a simple, Spirit-led approach you can teach and model:

##### 1. Start with Relationship, Not a Script

- Listen to their story. Ask questions. Be present.
- People don't need a sermon—they need someone who sees them.
- Let your life reflect Christ before your words explain Him.

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* — Matthew 5:16

## 2. Share the Gospel Clearly

Use simple language to explain God's plan of salvation:

- **God loves you** and created you for relationship. (John 3:16)
- **Sin separates us** from God. We've all fallen short. (Romans 3:23)
- **Jesus came** to rescue us—He lived perfectly, died for our sins, and rose again. (Romans 5:8)
- **Salvation is a gift**—we receive it by faith, not by works. (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- **When we believe and confess**, we are saved and made new. (Romans 10:9–10)

## 3. Invite Them to Respond

Ask gently:

“Would you like to receive Jesus today and begin a relationship with Him?”

If they say yes, lead them in a simple prayer—not magic words, but a sincere heart:

### **Sample Prayer:**

“Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I know I’ve sinned, and I need Your forgiveness. I believe You died for me and rose again. I receive Your grace, and I give You my life. Help me follow You from this day forward. Amen.”

## 4. Encourage Next Steps

- **Celebrate** their decision—heaven rejoices, and so should we! (Luke 15:7)
- Help them find a **Bible-believing church** or community.
- Encourage them to **read the Bible**, starting with the Gospel of John.
- Invite them to **pray daily**, even if it's just a few honest words.
- Offer to **walk with them**—discipleship is a journey, not a moment.

## Reflection Questions

1. What does “defending the faith” look like in your everyday life?
2. Are there areas where you feel unsure about what you believe?
3. How can you become more like the Bereans—eager to search Scripture for yourself?
4. Who in your life might be ready to hear the gospel—and how can you share it with love?

## Closing Prayer

“Lord, help me to love Your Word, to learn it deeply, and to live it boldly. Give me wisdom to know truth, courage to stand for it, and grace to share it with others. Use me to lead others to You. Amen.”

Would you like me to build Week 2 next, or format this into a printable guide or workbook? I can also help you create a visual theme, group discussion prompts, or a short video script to teach this live. Let's keep equipping the saints together.

