

Jude 1:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Analysis

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, After urgent warnings and exhortations, Jude concludes with magnificent doxology focusing on God's power to preserve believers. "Now unto him that is able" (Greek *tō de dynamenō*, τῷ δὲ δυναμένῳ) emphasizes divine power—God is able, capable, has power to accomplish what follows. This isn't theoretical possibility but confident assertion based on God's omnipotence and faithfulness.

"To keep you from falling" (Greek *phylaxai hymas aptaistous*, φυλάξαι ὑμᾶς ἀπταίστους) describes God's preserving power. "Keep" (Greek *phylaxai*, φυλάξαι) means guard, protect, preserve—the same word used in v. 1 ("preserved in Jesus Christ"). "From falling" (Greek *aptaistous*, ἀπταίστους) literally means "without stumbling"—not sinless perfection but preservation from apostasy, from falling away finally and completely. God guards believers from the shipwreck of faith the false teachers experienced.

"To present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Greek *stēsai katenōpion tēs doxēs autou amōmous en agalliasei*, στήσαι κατενώπιον τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ ἀμώμους ἐν ἀγαλλιάσει) describes glorification's consummation. "Present" suggests formal presentation, like bride presented to groom. "Faultless" (Greek *amōmous*, ἀμώμους) means without blemish, unblemished—used of sacrificial animals meeting purity standards. God will

present believers spotless, perfect, completely sanctified. "Before the presence of his glory" indicates God's throne room, His manifest presence. "With exceeding joy" (Greek *en agalliasai, ἐν ἀγαλλιάσει*) describes exuberant, overflowing joy characterizing the presentation—both God's joy over His people and believers' joy in His presence.

Historical Context

Doxologies were common in Jewish worship and Christian liturgy, ascribing praise to God for His attributes and works. Similar doxologies appear throughout New Testament (Romans 16:25-27, Ephesians 3:20-21, 1 Timothy 1:17, 1 Peter 5:10-11). These weren't mere rhetorical flourishes but theological affirmations—core beliefs about God expressed in worship. Jude's doxology particularly emphasizes preservation and glorification, themes directly relevant to his letter's concerns.

The concept of God preserving believers answered significant theological questions: Given false teaching's threat and human weakness, can Christians have assurance? The false teachers' apostasy might suggest that once-saved people could ultimately fall away. Against this, Jude affirms God's power to keep believers from falling—not human strength but divine preservation ensures final salvation. This doctrine of perseverance/preservation became central to Reformed theology.

The imagery of faultless presentation draws on Old Testament sacrificial system where only unblemished animals could be offered to God. Christ is presented as spotless Lamb (1 Peter 1:19); believers are presented spotless through His sanctifying work. Ephesians 5:25-27 uses similar imagery for Christ presenting the church to Himself without spot or wrinkle. The emphasis is Christ's work, not human achievement—He makes us faultless through His blood and Spirit.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does confidence in God's preserving power affect daily Christian living and spiritual battles?
2. What's the balance between God's preservation and our responsibility for perseverance in faith?
3. How should the hope of being presented faultless with exceeding joy shape present priorities and perspectives?

Interlinear Text

Τῷ δὲ δυναμένῳ φυλάξαι ὑμᾶς ἀπταίστους καὶ
G3588 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and
G1161 G1410 G5442 G5209 G679 G2532

στῆσαι κατενώπιον τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ ἀμώμους ἐν
to present before the presence G3588 glory G846 you faultless with
G2476 G2714 G1391 G299 G1722

ἀγαλλιάσει
exceeding joy
G20

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 4:18 (Glory): And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Colossians 1:22 (Parallel theme): In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:

Ephesians 5:27 (Glory): That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

2 Corinthians 4:14 (Parallel theme): Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

Revelation 14:5 (Parallel theme): And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Romans 8:31 (Parallel theme): What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Matthew 16:27 (Glory): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 5:12 (Parallel theme): Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.