

## *Vigilant Simon the Zealot*

**The following six traits and behaviors are clues to the presence of the vigilant personality style similar to Simon the Zealot. A person who has a strong vigilant tendency will demonstrate more of these behaviors more intensely than someone who has less of this style.**

1. **Autonomy:** vigilant individuals possess a resilient independence. They keep their own counsel, they require no outside reassurance or advice, they make decisions easily, and they can take care of themselves.
2. **Caution:** they are careful in their dealing with others, preferring to size up a person before entering into a relationship.
3. **Perceptiveness:** they are good listeners, with an ear for subtlety, tone, and multiple levels of communication.
4. **Self-defense:** individuals with a vigilant personality style are feisty and do not hesitate to stand up for themselves, especially when they are under attack.
5. **Alertness to Criticism:** they take criticism very seriously, without becoming intimidated.
6. **Fidelity:** they place a high premium on fidelity and loyalty. They work hard to earn it, and they never take it for granted.

### **The Vigilant Simon in Action**

Vigilant personalities are keen observers of other people and of their surroundings and are also quick to criticize what they see. They are particularly skilled at detecting what is “off” or not right in the environment, and can detect double messages and mixed motives. This ability makes them particularly adapted to city life (and to research, the law, and journalism), where hyperalertness and questioning others’ intentions can be important to modern survival. They tend to prepare themselves for the worst, which makes them sometimes seem suspicious. But being so alert and well prepared, they are also difficult to intimidate or fool. They are tough, independent survivors, often serving important roles as champions of the underdog, protectors of the downtrodden, and outspoken champions of causes in general.

In their personal relationships, they are slow to warm up and trust others. But once they do, they are devoted, loyal, and protective. Caution and reserve mark all their affiliations, at work as well. In all life areas they need to feel independent and autonomous, in charge of their own destiny. They often match well with partners or subordinates who are comfortable with dependence, and who let them be in charge. The apparent loss of this control can cause extreme stress for them.

They have a tendency to blame others for what goes wrong rather than accept that sometimes things go wrong without anyone being at fault. They are survivors, though, and their resilient autonomy usually sees them through the rough spots.

## **Issues of the Vigilant Simon**

Simons are fighters by nature or temperament. While they are not necessarily aggressive or even confrontive, they usually never run from a fight. Their style of fighting is to stand their ground and put up walls or build a castle. They are highly protective of those within their walls and guard them jealously. But they are highly resistant to those outside their walls and rarely lower their drawbridge until or unless their trust is earned. Once a vigilant person is betrayed it is very difficult for them to trust the same person again. Under extreme stress they can become paranoid and look for betrayal even when it is not there.

## **Scripture for the Vigilant Simon**

Since they are fighters by nature, Peter, the ultimate fighter, has some good things to say to them in the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. In chapter five of that book beginning with verse 8, Peter writes <sup>8</sup>Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. <sup>9</sup>Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters<sup>o</sup> all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

<sup>10</sup>In his kindness God called you to his eternal glory by means of Jesus Christ. After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. <sup>11</sup>All power is his forever and ever. Amen.

He is appealing both to their vigilance and their protectiveness. He is also encouraging them that although they may endure suffering the real enemy is Satan and not man and that is where the vigilant Simon needs to be most alert, seeing the enemy for who he really is. Here the vigilant is also reassured that there is an end to their suffering and God will intervene to restore, support, strengthen, and build a new firm foundation for the vigilant's castle resting on Christ and his power.

## **Jealousy**

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### **WHY IS OUR JEALOUSY SO DANGEROUS?**

PROVERBS 14:30

Jealousy brings decay to our lives because it causes us to focus on anger and bitterness.

PROVERBS 27:4; GENESIS 13:7

Jealousy tears families and friends apart. Jealousy drove Lot's herdsmen to fight with his uncle Abram's herdsmen.

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT GOD IS "A JEALOUS GOD"?**

EXODUS 34:14; DEUTERONOMY 5:9; DEUTERONOMY 32:21; ZECHARIAH 1:14

When people give their honor, praise, and love to other things, God is jealous that the honor due him has been squandered elsewhere. Because God deserves all our honor, praise, and love, this is an honest recognition of what he deserves.

## WHERE DOES JEALOUSY TAKE US? WHAT CAN HAPPEN NEXT?

PROVERBS 12:12

Thieves steal from others in response to their jealousy and lust for someone else's money. Generous people, on the other hand, love to give and that becomes their driving force in life.

GENESIS 4:4-8; GALATIANS 5:22-26

When we seek the character traits that come from the Holy Spirit, we are spared from petty human jealousy and the hard feelings that come from the competition for honor and popularity.

*Promise from God: Mark 11:24-25*

<sup>24</sup>Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it. <sup>25</sup>But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”<sup>o</sup>

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## Loyalty

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### WHY IS LOYALTY IMPORTANT?

PSALM 25:10

Loyal obedience to God brings a sweet fragrance into our lives because we are full of love and truth.

RUTH 1:14-16

Loyalty is the mark of true friendship.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

Loyalty is love in action.

### WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE LOYAL PEOPLE?

PROVERBS 11:3

A loyal person is trustworthy, and therefore honest.

PROVERBS 17:17

True friends are loyal.

### CAN YOU HAVE DIVIDED LOYALTY?

LUKE 16:13

Loyalty, by definition, is undeviating commitment. If you claim loyalty to God, you cannot also claim loyalty to anything that takes priority over God.

*Promise from God: Psalm 31:23*

<sup>23</sup> Love the LORD, all you faithful ones!  
For the LORD protects those who are loyal to him,  
but he harshly punishes all who are arrogant.

<sup>24</sup> So be strong and take courage,  
all you who put your hope in the LORD!

## The Vigilant Simon's Role in God's Kingdom

Due to their unique ability to discern the truth, vigilant Simon's have a special place in the church and the kingdom of God. The Book of Jude, written by one of Jesus' half brothers is an excellent description of the role a vigilant plays. If you want to go further in your understanding read the book of Jude in the New Testament.

### Jude Book Overview

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#### VITAL STATISTICS

<b>Purpose:</b>	To remind the church of the need for constant vigilance—to keep strong in the faith and to oppose heresy
<b>Author:</b>	Jude, brother of Jesus and James
<b>To Whom Written:</b>	Jewish Christians and all believers everywhere
<b>Date Written:</b>	Approximately A.D. 65
<b>Setting:</b>	From the first century on, the church has been threatened by heresy and false teaching; we must always be on our guard.
<b>Key Verse:</b>	“Dearly loved friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the truth of the Good News. God gave this unchanging truth once for all time to his holy people” (1:3).
<b>Key People:</b>	Jude, James, Jesus

To protect from harm, to guard from attack, to repulse enemies—for centuries rugged defenders have built walls, launched missiles, and waged wars, expending material and human resources in the battle to save nations and cities. And with total commitment and courageous abandon, individuals have fought for their families. It is a rule of life that we fight for survival, defending with all our strength what is most precious to us, from every real or imagined attack.

God's Word and the gift of eternal life have infinite value and have been entrusted to Christ's faithful followers. There are many people who live in opposition to God and his followers. They twist God's truth, seeking to deceive and destroy the unwary. But God's truth must go forth, carried and defended by those who have committed their lives to God's Son. It is an important task, an awesome responsibility, and a profound privilege to have this commission.

This was Jude's message to Christians everywhere. Opposition would come and godless teachers would arise, but Christians should “defend the truth of the Good News” (1:3) by rejecting all falsehood and immorality (1:4-19), remembering God's mighty acts of rescue and punishment (1:5-11, 14-16) and the warnings of the apostles (1:17-19). His readers are to build up their own faith through prayer (1:20), keeping close to Christ (1:21), helping others (1:22, 23), and hating sin (1:23). Then Jude concludes with a glorious benediction of praise to God (1:24, 25).

How much do you value God's Word, the fellowship of the church, and obedience to Jesus Christ? There are many false teachers waiting to destroy your Christ-centered life, the credibility

of God's Word, and the unity of the body of Christ. Read Jude and determine to stand firm in your faith and defend God's truth at all costs. *Nothing* is more valuable.

## THE BLUEPRINT

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1. The danger of false teachers (1:1-16)	Jude wrote to motivate Christians everywhere to action. He wanted them to recognize the dangers of false teaching, to protect themselves and other believers, and to win back those who had already been deceived. Jude was writing against godless teachers who were saying that Christians could do as they pleased without fear of God's punishment. While few teach this heresy openly in the church today, many in the church act as though this were true. This letter contains a warning against living a nominal Christian life.
2. The duty to fight for God's truth (1:17-25)	

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## MEGATHEMES

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THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
False Teachers	Jude warns against false teachers and leaders who reject the lordship of Christ, undermine the faith of others, and lead them astray. These leaders and any who follow them will be punished.	We must staunchly defend Christian truth. Make sure that you avoid leaders and teachers who distort the Bible to suit their own purposes. Genuine servants of God will faithfully portray Christ in their words and conduct.
Apostasy	Jude also warns against apostasy—turning away from Christ. We are to remember that God punishes rebellion against him. We must be careful not to drift away from a faithful commitment to Christ.	Those who do not seek to know the truth in God's Word are susceptible to apostasy. Christians must guard against any false teachings that would distract them from the truth preached by the apostles and written in God's Word.

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