



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, help me, God, to live my life in Your Truth. God, I pray that I will not imitate evil, but that I will always do good because I know You, I love You, lead me in the way, the right path, Your will for me and plans. If I do something amiss, I ask that You convict me, so that I may get back on the right track. Fill my heart, with Your Word, for what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart. Help me to keep a guard on my tongue; for words can maim, kill and destroy. Words can also bless, so always led me to bless people and not curse them, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Worship Music

[He Will Carry You-
Scott Wesley Brown](#)

[When Answers Are Not
Enough-Scott Wesley Brown](#)

[Those Whom Sow In Tears-
Maranta Singers](#)

[Let Me Be The One-
Amanda Kate](#)

Scripture

3 John (2005)

3 John 1:1-14 (AMP)

¹ THE ELDERLY elder [of the church addresses this letter] to the beloved (esteemed) Gaius, whom I truly love.

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well *and* prospers.

³ In fact, I greatly rejoiced when [some of] the brethren from time to time arrived and spoke [so highly] of the sincerity *and* fidelity of your life, as indeed you do live in the Truth [the whole Gospel presents].

⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my [spiritual] children are living their lives in the Truth.

⁵ Beloved, it is a fine *and* faithful work that you are doing when you give any service to the [Christian] brethren, and [especially when they are] strangers.

⁶ They have testified before the church of your love *and* friendship. You will do well to forward them on their journey [and you will please do so] in a way worthy of God's [service].

⁷ For these [traveling missionaries] have gone out for the Name's sake (for His sake) and are accepting nothing from the Gentiles (the heathen, the non-Israelites).

⁸ So we ourselves ought to support such people [to welcome and provide for them], in order that we may be fellow workers in the Truth (the whole Gospel) *and* cooperate with its teachers.

⁹ I have written briefly to the church; but Diotrephes, who likes to take the lead among them *and* put himself first, does not acknowledge my authority *and* refuses to accept my suggestions *or* to listen to me.

¹⁰ So when I arrive, I will call attention to what he is doing, his boiling over *and* casting malicious reflections upon us with insinuating language. And not satisfied with that, he refuses to receive *and* welcome the [missionary] brethren himself, and also interferes with *and* forbids those who would welcome them, and tries to expel (excommunicate) them from the church.

¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil, but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen (discerned or experienced) God [has enjoyed no vision of Him and does not know Him at all].

¹² Demetrius has warm commendation from everyone—and from the Truth itself; we add our testimony also, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I had much [to say to you when I began] to write, but I prefer not to put it down with pen (a reed) and ink;

¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face.

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The Rejection of John's Helpers

I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.... I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 2, 4

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good.

3 John 11

Gaius (3 John 1)

There was a Gaius in Corinth, a convert of Paul's (1 Corinthians 1:14 ; Romans 16:23), in whose home a church met in Paul's day. A tradition says that this Gaius later became John's amanuensis (assistant/secretary). But 3 John 4 calls Gaius one of John's "children," that is, converts. Whoever Gaius was, he was a greatly beloved Christian leader. John loved him and four times calls him "dear friend" (vv. 1 , 2 , 5 , 11).

That All May Go Well with You (v. 2)

Here is a prayer, from one who was very close to Christ, that a Christian might have temporal as well as spiritual blessings: an indication that it is not wrong, in the sight of Christ, for one to possess this world's goods and benefits. John himself, in early life, had been a man of means. But this same John warns against loving the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).

Truth (3 John 1)

A favorite word of John's. He uses it more than 20 times in his Gospel, nine times in 1 John, five times in 2 John, and five times in this very short letter: love in the truth (v. 1), walk in the truth (vv. 2-3), work for the truth (v. 8), the witness of the truth (v. 12).

John's Helpers (vv. 5-8)

Paul, some 40 years earlier, had established churches in and around Ephesus. With no seminaries to train pastors, he had to develop his pastors from among his converts. Later, John assumed the pastoral oversight of these churches, and it appears that he trained a great number of teachers and preachers to aid him and sent them out among the churches.

Diotrephes (v. 9)

Diotrephes was one of the domineering false teachers who would have nothing to do with John. It seems that Diotrephes and Gaius were pastors of different congregations in the same city. Apparently some of John's evangelists, on one of their recent tours, had been refused admission to the congregation over which Diotrephes presided, but Gaius had taken them in. On returning to Ephesus, they told the story in John's home church. John was now sending another delegation to the same city with this short letter addressed to Gaius. Demetrius (v. 12) may have been the bearer of the letter.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible history & commentaries; pages 891-892)

Purpose Of Writing: To deal with one of the men in the church who would not accept or receive any prophets coming in. To tell Gaius that he did well in accepting and giving hospitality to these itinerant prophets and evangelists. To encourage Gaius to receive Demetrius, an itinerant prophet who was coming. V1 John is "the elder" again. V2 This is John's personal wish for Gaius. Some people misquote it as God's general will for all His children. VV5-8 Itinerant prophets went from church to church to minister to the body of believers. The apostles had written a book of advice for the churches on how to know the true prophets from the false ones. Gaius had been sharing the hospitality of his home with the itinerant prophets. This was especially important in those days, because most inns were dirty and the innkeepers were often dishonest. VV9-10 Diotrephes didn't read John's letter to the church, because he didn't want to be under anyone else. Also, he wouldn't give any help to the itinerant prophets.

(New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; pages 187-188)

How can you give joy to others as you walk in truth? Walking in truth means living out the truth you read in the Word of God. Others will take note of your faithfulness and it will encourage them. A good sermon, teaching is also in our witness of how we live....do as you sayif you say to a person you will do something follow through, when a person does not follow up they lose credibility...and sadly I am witnessing it in a lot of churches, today, they say they will do this and that and don't follow through.

There are many people all around the world who work tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel. It is important to extend hospitality to such individuals as you have opportunity. Even if you cannot host such a person in your home, what can you do to support these ministries? As you do, you share in their work for God's kingdom.

One of God's most fervent desires for us is that we prosper *in our souls*. This means He wants us to mature spiritually, to be full-grown in mind, will, and emotions. He wants us to think with the mind of Christ and according to His Word. When we are able to do this, we can separate our emotions from decisions we need to make and use our will to line up our lives with His will for us.

To the degree that we do that, He also wants us to prosper (supply our needs; where God guides He provides) and be healthy in all areas of life (see 3 John 2). There has been a great deal of discussion over whether God wants His children to prosper. Some believe poverty is a virtue, while others believe that all Christians should be rich. I do not believe either one of those extremes. I believe we should concentrate on spiritual maturity and keep God first in our lives and He will supply our needs. God is more concerned with how we behave than what we own.

Matthew told us to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness (His ways of being and doing) and all these things would be added to us (see Matthew 6:33). God blesses us to enable us ,...as, long as things (tools) do not have us (false idols...the things are tools, they all belong to God, not us) God blesses us to be a blessing to other people (the enabling, though even if a person does not have money they can bless a person, by assisting with listening, helping them to seek the resource , as to that for example, a person needs help with monthly utility bills and you know what corporation may help, like Red Cross, etc..) We are to bless people as He leads us to bless; sometimes it is by a kind word, gesture, help and always prayer. Where God guides, He provides.

Study Questions For 3RD John:

1. We know that we should follow that which is good, not that which is evil. What does verse 11 say about good and evil?

2. John rejoiced that we walk in the truth. What does that mean to you?

3. Define the word, "hospitality." How could hospitality be a witness for Jesus Christ?

4. There are many rich Christians in the world today who do not practice the gift of hospitality. What does John say in verses 9-11?

5. In verse 12, John had a good report to say about Demetrius. What kind of a report do you think someone would write about you?

(Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture, commentaries, pages 2111 -2115)
(Word Search 9, Bible Software; (KJV) 2005; Bibles, dictionary, concordance, sermons, scripture)

Psa 119:105
Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path.



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