



Holistic Prosperity And Divine Health

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 1:2).

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“The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 1:1-2).

Gaius is a Roman praenomen, or given name, of uncertain meaning - possibly derived from the Latin word “gaudere”, meaning “to rejoice”, though it could also be of unknown Etruscan origin (a powerful and wealthy civilization of ancient Italy in the area corresponding roughly to Tuscany, western Umbria, and northern Lazio). Gaius was a very common Roman praenomen, the most famous bearers being Gaius Julius Caesar, the great leader of the Roman Republic, and his adopted son Gaius Octavius (later known as Augustus), the first Roman emperor. In our text, the apostle John used this name for the recipient of his letter, who probably was a bishop at Ephesus. This root meaning of the name implies the importance of joyfulness in Christian living. There is strength in rejoicing. “... The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10). Many scriptures enjoins the believer to rejoice in the Lord, such as:

- 1) Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
- 2) Luke 10:20 ... but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
- 3) Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
- 4) 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.
- 5) Psalms 33:21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.
- 6) John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.
- 7) James 1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:
- 8) 1 Chronicles 16:32 Let the sea roar, and the fullness thereof: let the fields rejoice, and all that is therein.
- 9) Psalms 13:5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.
- 10) Psalms 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the

“But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs ” (Mark 7:27).

LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

John described Gaius as “wellbeloved... whom I love in the truth”. So his epistle was motivated by love to a person whom as the name suggests was probably also full of joy. His purpose of writing was to bring Gaius into the fullness of God's joy through the revelation of God's word / will.

Whatever level we have attained, God has more in store for us. His message reveals that wholeness, soundness and prosperity are all part of God's plan and provisions for His children, and are proportionally linked to the prosperity of the person's soul. This is supported by Job 36:11 “If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures”.

This then reminds us that the primary focus of the believer should be the prosperity of his/her soul. Jesus prescribed this so clearly when He declared in Matthew 6:30-33 “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”.**

God knows your needs and has made adequate provisions for them. His word assures us **“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”** (Jeremiah 29:11). If earthly companies, organisations and rulers make provisions for the wellbeing of their subjects, should we expect a lesser treatment from the God of all universe, who described Himself as Love? A changed mentally will equip you to possess.