

5 Keys to Real Prosperity

3 John 1-4

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 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

PURPOSE: To teach God's people about God's desire to prosper and bless their lives.

KEY WORD: Keys

INTRODUCTION:

Let's begin this lesson with a closer look at our text...

Verse 2...

1. *Beloved...* The target of this address is Gaius, but the promise is for the people of God.
2. *I wish above all things...* The seriousness of this message is declared in these few words, "above all things". This would mean, most importantly.
3. *Even as thy soul prospereth...* The will of God is displayed and clarified. Our soul (Our Spiritual Man) is the important part of our lives. Nothing is as important as the condition of our spirit man!

Verse 3 & 4...

John tells us that his prayers (or desires) are being answered in the lives of these people.

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

1. He is rejoicing in their spiritual growth! This is the greatest type of testimony, good news concerning one's spiritual condition! (V.3)
2. He also explained that his joy came through their faith walk! (V.4)

What did John mean when he used the word, “prosper”? The Greek meaning of prosper is very simple. It means... *to succeed in reaching a destination or to succeed in business affairs. It can even mean to have a prosperous journey.* But let’s explore this word a little more. To prosper means *to arrive, to flourish, to go, to make out, to succeed, to thrive, to advance, to ascend, to bloom, to climb, to develop, to do well, to excel, to expand, to get ahead, to grow, to improve, to progress and to strive!*

Is there anything bad about these definitions? I don’t understand why people are so afraid of the term, “prosperity” or against our desires to “prosper”. Maybe it is because Satan desires that we fail at all we do! There is no doubt that he has made prosperity a bad word! Yes there have been abuses but we cannot throw out the term because someone used the word wrong!

We need to clarify the word and start believing God for prosperity! Why?

GOD WANTS YOU TO PROSPER!

I. WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A PROSPEROUS LIFE?

* *5 Signs of a truly prosperous life:*

A. THE BASIC NEEDS OF LIFE SUPPLIED! (1 Tim. 6:1-10)

Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

7 *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

8 *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

9 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

B. ENOUGH EXTRA TO REACH OUT AND HELP OTHERS!

(Ephesians 4:28)

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

C. SEED TO SOW INTO THE MINISTRY!

(2 Cor. 9:10 & Matthew 10:41 & 42)

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

D. AN EMERGENCY FUND! (Luke 14:28)

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 *Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,*

30 *Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*

E. A GODLY HOME AND GOD-FEARING CHILDREN!

(Psalms 127)

*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:
except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

*2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread
of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

*3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the
womb is his reward.*

*4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of
the youth.*

*5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not
be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*