

Date: 7-10-2022 AM

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: III John

Title: "The Secret to Successful Service"

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## Introduction:

### 1. The Context in this Epistle.

#### A. The Author.

The Apostle John is now the "Aged" Apostle for within the context of Vs 1 he is called the "Elder".

He is no longer the young man that Jesus found on the shore washing his nets after a long night of fishing. On that day he heard the call from the Nazarene to follow him.

He has seen Miracles, been through storms, watched his LORD and Saviour be betrayed, crucified and then rise again on the third day.

John saw the empty tomb, John saw the day of Pentecost, John suffered the early persecution of the early church, John labored faithfully in the shadows taking care of the Mother of Jesus and now he is old man and he is an old man writing to encourage these believers.

What I love about this is that even after all these years of ministry, serving God, persecution, storms, heartaches and trouble John as an old man still has joy and excitement about Serving God!

**I John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.**

I John he deals with **Assurance.**

II John he deals with **Apostates.**

III John he deals with **Adhering.**

#### B. The Authority.

The Theme of this Epistle of III John is "Truth"

5 times in these 14 verses the "Truth" is referenced and mentioned.

The Truth is a direct reference and Synonym for the Word of God!

**John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

### 2. The Characters in this Epistle.

There are 3 men that are directly identified in this Epistle.

#### A. Gaius. Vs 1-8

He is **Walking** in the Truth.

This Epistle is directly written to this man by the name of Gaius.

There are 3 to 4 men identified as "Gaius" in the New Testament.

This is not the same Gaius as mentioned in Acts, Romans and Corinthians. Gaius was just a common name in that day.

### **B. Diotrephes. Vs 9-10**

He is at War against the Truth.

a) His Reputation. Vs 9

“I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them,”

b) His Rejection. Vs 9

“receiveth us not.”

c) His Rebellion. Vs 10

“Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.”

d) His Rebuke. Vs 10

“Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth,”

### **C. Demetrius. Vs 12**

He is a Witness of the Truth.

a) His Conduct.

“Demetrius hath good report”

b) His Community.

“Demetrius hath good report of all men,”

c) His Compliment.

“and of the truth itself:”

d) His Church.

“yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.”

### **3. The Concern in this Epistle. Vs 2**

In Vs 2 of this text John uses the word “wish” to describe his Passionate Prayer for this man Gaius.

As far as we can tell Gaius was not a Preacher, but rather just a faithful man serving in his local Church.

He desires for him to Prosper, he desires for him to have good health, and he wants his health condition to be as well as his soul’s condition.

John is saying “Gaius, my prayer and desire is that you might do as well Physically and Financially as well as you Spiritually.”

The word “Prosper” and “Prospereth” in this text means “To be Successful”

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

How can I be successful in my Spirituality and in my Service?

By how I respond to Truth!

### **Application:**

If that was the case in your life where your Spirituality would be the same as your Physical health and your financial state, how would you fare?

Finances and Health are the 2 main things that we as humans focus on, but in reality we as believers should be just as concerned about our Spiritual condition!

If I as your Pastor were to pray this prayer for you, that the success of your Finances and your Health would depend on the success of your Spirituality then how would it be for you?

Financially:

- Could you pay your bills?
- Could you cover your mortgage?
- Could you purchase food for your family?

Physically:

- Would you be sick all the time?
- Would you have strength?
- Could you even get out of the bed in the morning?
- Would you have to depend on someone else to take care of you?
- Would you have Stamina?

**Many carnal Christians would have to get on relief and go to a hospital if they prospered materially and physically as they prosper spiritually.** -Roy Gingrich

There is nothing wrong with good health!

There is nothing wrong with being blessed Finically!

But we must emphasize the Spiritual life!

**Galatians 5:16** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**End of Introduction:**

**What caused Gaius to be Spiritually healthy?**

**I. He Received the Truth.**

Gaius was most likely a convert of the Apostle John's ministry. Thus since he was in the Church and called the "well beloved" Gaius, then that would indicate to us that he was a saved man!

He Received Truth!

**1. About Sin.**

**Romans 3:23- Romans 6:23**

## 2. About **Salvation**.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 3. About the **Scriptures**.

II Timothy 3:14-17 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

## 4. About the **Sanctuary**.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### II. He Remained in the Truth.

#### 1. The **Church**. Vs 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.”

Not only did he get saved in the Church, but he stayed in the Church!

#### 2. The **Christians**. Vs 3

“when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee,”

Others could see his faithfulness and commitment to the Church!

#### 3. The **Consistency**. Vs 3

“even as thou walkest in the truth.”

He was not “in and out” but rather he was consistent in his desire for truth!

### III. He Represented the Truth.

#### 1. By his **Walk**. Vs 3-4

“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.”

#### 2. By his **Work**. Vs 5-8

“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6 Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: 7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. 8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.”

#### 3. By his **Will**. Vs 5

**“Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest”**

He was not serving God because he “had” to, he was serving God because he wanted to!