

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

3 John — Walking in Truth and Supporting the Work

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

3 John is a short letter, but it gives us a powerful picture of Christian character, ministry support, spiritual leadership, hospitality, and the importance of walking in truth.

John writes to a believer named Gaius.

Gaius is commended because he is:

Faithful.

Hospitable.

Generous.

Committed to the truth.

Supportive of Christian workers.

John then contrasts Gaius with another man named Diotrephes.

Diotrephes is proud.

He loves to be first.

He rejects apostolic authority.

He spreads malicious words.

He refuses hospitality.

He prevents others from showing hospitality.

He even removes faithful believers from the church.

Then John introduces a third man:

Demetrius.

Demetrius has a good testimony.

He is respected by others.

His life agrees with the truth.

3 John therefore gives us three living examples:

Gaius — the faithful servant.

Diotrephes — the self-exalting leader.

Demetrius — the man with a good testimony.

This small letter teaches us that Christian faith is demonstrated not merely by what we say, but by:

How we live.

How we treat people.

How we support God's work.

How we respond to spiritual authority.

What kind of testimony our lives produce.

One of the great statements of the letter is:

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

3 John teaches us that truth should not remain merely in the mind.

Truth should become a way of life.

I. LOVE ROOTED IN TRUTH

3 John 1 — “Whom I Love in the Truth”

“From the elder, to my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.”

John again introduces himself as:

The elder.

He writes to Gaius, whom he calls:

“My dear friend.”

John's love for Gaius is connected to:

Truth.

This is similar to what John taught in 2 John.

Christian love and biblical truth belong together.

Cross References

2 John 1:1

“From the elder, to the chosen lady and her children, whom I truly love—and not only I, but also all who know the truth.”

Philemon 1:1

“Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon, our dearly loved friend and fellow worker.”

1 Corinthians 4:17

“For this reason I sent Timothy to you. He is my dearly loved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus.”

Christian relationships should be built upon more than personality.

The deepest Christian relationships are grounded in:

Faith.

Truth.

Christ.

Shared spiritual commitment.

Spiritual Principle

Christian friendship becomes strongest when it is rooted in a shared commitment to God's truth.

II. A PROSPERING SOUL

3 John 2 — “Just as Your Soul Prospers”

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”

John expresses genuine concern for Gaius.

He prays for:

His well-being.

His health.

His prosperity.

But John makes an important comparison:

“Just as your soul prospers.”

Apparently, Gaius was spiritually healthy.

Cross References

Psalm 1:3

“He is like a tree planted beside streams of water, producing its fruit in season. Its leaves do not wither, and whatever he does according to God's way prospers.”

3 John 1:4

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Proverbs 3:7

“Do not consider yourself wise. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”

John's words raise an important question.

If our physical, financial, and outward condition matched the condition of our soul, how healthy would we be?

Some people are outwardly successful but inwardly empty.

Others have very little materially but are spiritually rich.

Application

Ask yourself:

Is my soul prospering?

Am I growing in:

Faith?

Prayer?

Obedience?

Love?

Truth?

Holiness?

Spiritual maturity?

III. WALKING IN THE TRUTH

3 John 3 — Faithfulness That Others Could See

“I was filled with joy when brothers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, showing that you walk in it.”

Others had observed Gaius.

What did they report?

They testified about his:

Faithfulness to the truth.

Even more importantly:

He walked in it.

Cross References

2 John 1:4

“I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.”

1 Thessalonians 3:6

“Timothy has now returned to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He told us that you remember us kindly and want to see us, just as we want to see you.”

Philippians 4:1

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.”

Gaius did not merely claim to believe the truth.

His conduct demonstrated it.

This is the difference between:

Knowing truth.

And:

Walking in truth.

Key Truth

Truth becomes most convincing when it becomes visible through a faithful life.

3 John 4 — A Spiritual Leader's Greatest Joy

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

This is one of the most beautiful statements in 3 John.

John had spiritual children.

These were people whose faith and spiritual development mattered deeply to him.

What brought him the greatest joy?

Not:

Their wealth.

Their popularity.

Their social status.

Their success.

His greatest joy was:

They were walking in the truth.

Cross References

2 John 1:4

“I was filled with joy when I found some of your children walking in truth according to the Father's command.”

Galatians 4:19

“My dear children, I am again experiencing the pains of spiritual labor for you until Christ is formed in you.”

1 Corinthians 4:15

“Even if you had thousands of instructors in Christ, you would not have many spiritual fathers, because through the gospel I became your father in Christ Jesus.”

This verse gives parents, pastors, teachers, and spiritual leaders a powerful priority.

The greatest spiritual goal is not merely:

Attendance.

Achievement.

Recognition.

It is:

Faithfulness to truth.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest success of spiritual leadership is seeing people faithfully walk with Christ.

IV. FAITHFUL HOSPITALITY

3 John 5 — Serving Brothers and Strangers

“Beloved, you are faithful in whatever you do for the brothers and even for strangers.”

John now commends Gaius for hospitality.

Gaius served:

Believers he knew.

And:

Believers he did not know.

John calls this:

Faithfulness.

Cross References

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, because some have welcomed angels without realizing it.”

1 Peter 4:9

“Show hospitality to one another without complaining.”

Matthew 25:35

“I was hungry and you gave Me food. I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed Me.”

Hospitality was extremely important in the early church.

Traveling Christian workers often depended upon believers for:

Food.

Lodging.

Encouragement.

Resources.

Protection.

Fellowship.

Gaius opened his life to others.

Application

Christian hospitality is more than entertaining friends.

It is using what God has given us to serve His people.

V. SUPPORT THE WORK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD

3 John 6 — Helping Workers on Their Journey

“They have testified about your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.”

Gaius's love had become known publicly.

People testified about it before the church.

John encourages him to continue.

He tells Gaius to send Christian workers forward:

“In a manner worthy of God.”

Cross References

Romans 12:13

“Share with God's people who are in need and make hospitality a regular practice.”

Titus 3:13

“Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey, making sure they lack nothing they need.”

Acts 15:3

“The church sent them on their way, and as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria they described how Gentiles were turning to God, bringing great joy to the believers.”

Supporting God's work may include:

Financial help.

Food.

Transportation.

Housing.

Prayer.

Encouragement.

Resources.

Practical assistance.

Spiritual Principle

Those who help faithful workers continue their ministry participate in the work itself.

VI. THEY WENT OUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE NAME

3 John 7 — Serving Christ Without Depending on Unbelievers

“For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.”

These workers had gone out:

“For the sake of the Name.”

The Name refers to Jesus Christ.

Their mission was centered upon Him.

Cross References

Acts 5:41

“The apostles left the council rejoicing because they had been considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus.”

1 Corinthians 9:12

“If others have a right to receive material support from you, do we not have even more? Yet we did not use this right. Instead, we endured everything so that we would not place an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.”

Matthew 10:8

“Heal the sick, cleanse those who are unclean, raise the dead, and drive out demons. You received freely, so give freely.”

These workers were not traveling for personal fame.

They were not pursuing financial gain.

They went out:

For Christ.

That is the proper motive for Christian ministry.

Key Truth

The greatest reason to serve is not recognition, money, or position—it is the name of Jesus Christ.

VII. FELLOW WORKERS FOR THE TRUTH

3 John 8 — Supporting Those Who Serve

“Therefore we ought to support such people so that we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

John now states the principle clearly.

Those who support faithful Christian workers become:

“Fellow workers for the truth.”

Cross References

1 Corinthians 9:14

“In the same way, the Lord has directed that those who proclaim the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”

Galatians 6:6

“The person who receives instruction in God's Word should share good things with the one who teaches.”

Philippians 4:15

“You Philippians know that when I first began preaching the gospel and left Macedonia, no church shared with me in giving and receiving except you alone.”

Not every believer is called to travel.

Not every believer is called to preach publicly.

Not every believer has the same assignment.

But every believer can participate in God's work.

Through:

Prayer.

Giving.

Hospitality.

Encouragement.

Service.

Resources.

Important Truth

You do not have to stand behind the pulpit to become a partner in gospel ministry.

VIII. DIOTREPHESES LOVED TO BE FIRST

3 John 9 — Pride in Leadership

“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to put himself first, does not acknowledge us.”

The tone changes sharply.

Gaius was faithful.

Diotrephes was proud.

John identifies the root problem:

“He loves to put himself first.”

This reveals the heart of his leadership problem.

Cross References

Matthew 20:25

“Jesus called His disciples together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the nations dominate their people and their powerful leaders exercise authority over them.’”

1 Peter 5:3

“Do not act as rulers who dominate those entrusted to your care. Instead, be examples to the flock.”

Luke 22:24

“An argument arose among the disciples about which of them should be considered the greatest.”

Pride is especially dangerous in spiritual leadership.

A leader may begin serving Christ but gradually become preoccupied with:

Position.

Recognition.

Control.

Authority.

Influence.

Being first.

Spiritual Principle

The desire to serve Christ and the desire to be first are not the same thing.

IX. THE FRUIT OF A PROUD HEART

3 John 10 — Slander, Rejection, and Control

“So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing—spreading malicious words against us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also prevents others from doing so and puts them out of the church.”

Diotrephes's pride produced visible behavior.

John lists several problems.

He:

Spread malicious words.

Rejected faithful workers.

Prevented others from helping them.

Removed people from the church.

Cross References

3 John 1:9

“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, refuses to recognize our authority.”

1 Timothy 1:20

“Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over for severe discipline so that they might learn not to blaspheme.”

Matthew 18:17

“If the person refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as someone who has placed himself outside the fellowship.”

John does not ignore Diotrephes's behavior.

He says:

“I will call attention to what he is doing.”

Biblical love does not require leaders to ignore destructive conduct.

There are times when wrongdoing must be confronted.

Important Truth

Unchecked pride in leadership often produces control, slander, exclusion, and spiritual abuse of authority.

X. DO NOT IMITATE EVIL

3 John 11 — Follow What Is Good

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. The one who does good is from God; the one who does evil has not seen God.”

John now gives Gaius a direct instruction.

There were examples around him.

Diotrephes represented:

What not to imitate.

Demetrius would represent:

What to imitate.

John says:

“Do not imitate what is evil.”

Then:

“Imitate what is good.”

Cross References

Romans 12:9

“Let love be genuine. Hate what is evil and hold tightly to what is good.”

Psalms 34:14

“Turn away from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.”

1 Peter 3:11

“He must turn away from evil and do good. He must seek peace and pursue it.”

We are influenced by examples.

Therefore we must choose carefully whom we imitate.

Application

Ask yourself:

Whose character am I copying?

Whose leadership style am I adopting?

Whose values are shaping me?

Are those examples bringing me closer to Christ?

XI. DEMETRIUS HAD A GOOD TESTIMONY

3 John 12 — A Reputation Worth Having

“Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.”

John now presents Demetrius.

His reputation stands in sharp contrast to Diotrephes.

Demetrius had:

A good testimony from people.

A good testimony from the truth.

A good testimony from John and his associates.

Cross References

Acts 6:3

“Brothers and sisters, choose from among you seven men who have a good reputation, who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and we will appoint them to this responsibility.”

1 Timothy 3:7

“A church leader must also have a good reputation with outsiders so that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap.”

3 John 1:3

“I was filled with joy when brothers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth and how you walk in it.”

A good reputation does not mean everyone will like us.

Even Jesus was opposed.

But a faithful Christian should develop a testimony of:

Integrity.

Truthfulness.

Faithfulness.

Character.

Good works.

Key Truth

A godly reputation is built through consistent faithfulness over time.

XII. PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP MATTERS

3 John 13 — More Than Pen and Ink

“I have much to write to you, but I do not want to write with pen and ink.”

John again expresses the limitation of written communication.

There were things he wanted to discuss personally.

Cross References

2 John 1:12

“I have many things to write to you, but I do not want to communicate only with paper and ink.”

1 Corinthians 4:19

“But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and then I will learn not merely what these arrogant people are saying, but what power is actually present.”

3 John 1:14

“I hope to see you soon, and we will speak face to face.”

Written communication has value.

But some conversations are better handled personally.

Especially when dealing with:

Relationships.

Encouragement.

Correction.

Serious spiritual matters.

3 John 14 — “Peace Be With You”

“I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace be with you. The friends here greet you. Greet the friends there by name.”

John closes warmly.

He expresses hope for:

Personal fellowship.

Peace.

Friendship.

Individual recognition.

Notice the final phrase:

“Greet the friends there by name.”

People mattered to John individually.

Cross References

2 John 1:12

“I hope to come to you and speak face to face so that our joy may be complete.”

1 Peter 5:14

“Greet one another with the affection of Christian love. Peace be with all of you who belong to Christ.”

Romans 16:1

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea.”

Christian ministry should never become so focused on programs that people become invisible.

Names matter.

Relationships matter.

Fellowship matters.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical ministry is personal because people are not projects—they are individuals loved by God.

XIII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN

1. Walking in Truth Brings Spiritual Joy

John says:

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

The greatest evidence of successful spiritual influence is not popularity.

It is faithfulness.

Ask Yourself:

Am I walking in the truth, or merely agreeing with it intellectually?

2. Hospitality Supports God's Work

Gaius faithfully helped traveling Christian workers.

His hospitality became part of gospel ministry.

Principle:

When we faithfully support those doing God's work, we participate in that work.

3. Pride Corrupts Leadership

Diotrephes:

Loved to be first.

Rejected authority.

Spread malicious words.

Refused hospitality.

Controlled others.

Removed people from the church.

Remember:

Spiritual leadership is about serving, not controlling.

4. Follow What Is Good

John tells Gaius:

“Do not imitate what is evil but what is good.”

Examples matter.

Choose carefully whom you follow.

Principle:

Character is often shaped by what we repeatedly admire and imitate.

5. A Good Testimony Matters

Demetrius was well spoken of by others and by the truth itself.

His life agreed with his profession.

Ask Yourself:

What testimony is my life producing?

XIV. THE SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION OF 3 JOHN

3 John gives us a practical pattern for faithful Christian service.

1. Love in Truth

John's relationship with Gaius was rooted in truth.

2. Prosper Spiritually

The health of the soul matters greatly.

3. Walk in Truth

Truth must shape daily life.

4. Serve Faithfully

Gaius used what he had to help others.

5. Show Hospitality

He welcomed fellow believers and strangers.

6. Support the Work

He helped gospel workers continue their ministry.

7. Reject Pride

Diotrephes demonstrates what happens when self becomes central.

8. Confront Wrong

Destructive behavior should not always be ignored.

9. Imitate Good

Believers must choose godly examples.

10. Build a Good Testimony

Demetrius shows the value of consistent character.

11. Pursue Fellowship

John valued face-to-face relationships.

This is the movement from:

Truth → Faithfulness → Service → Support → Discernment → Character → Fellowship.

XV. WHAT 3 JOHN TEACHES US ABOUT CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

3 John presents two dramatically different kinds of leadership.

Gaius

Gaius demonstrates:

Faithfulness.

Hospitality.

Generosity.

Love.

Support for ministry.

Walking in truth.

Diotrephes

Diotrephes demonstrates:

Pride.

Self-promotion.

Slander.

Control.

Rejection of faithful workers.

Misuse of authority.

Demetrius

Demetrius demonstrates:

Good character.

A good reputation.

Consistency with truth.

The contrast is powerful.

Christian leadership should never be measured merely by:

Position.

Title.

Influence.

Visibility.

Authority.

The better questions are:

Does this person walk in truth?

Does this person serve others?

Does this person support God's work?

Does this person demonstrate humility?

Does this person's character agree with his message?

3 John teaches us:

Character matters more than position.

XVI. Answers for Personal Study

Question 1

What does John's prayer for Gaius teach us about spiritual prosperity?

John prayed that Gaius would prosper and enjoy good health “**just as your soul prospers**” (3 John 2).

This suggests that Gaius was spiritually healthy.

His inner life with God was strong.

This verse reminds us that spiritual prosperity is more important than outward prosperity.

A person may have:

Money.

Health.

Success.

Possessions.

Recognition.

And still have a neglected soul.

We should therefore ask not only:

“How am I doing outwardly?”

But:

“How is my soul?”

Question 2

What does it mean to walk in the truth?

Walking in truth means allowing God's truth to shape daily life.

Gaius did not merely know truth intellectually.

Others testified that he:

Walked in it.

Truth influenced his:

Conduct.

Hospitality.

Love.

Service.

Relationships.

Generosity.

Walking in truth means that what we believe on Sunday becomes visible in how we live during the rest of the week.

Question 3

Why did Gaius bring John so much joy?

John says:

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Gaius's faithful life demonstrated that spiritual instruction had produced fruit.

For a pastor, teacher, parent, or Christian mentor, one of the greatest joys is seeing people grow spiritually and remain faithful to Christ.

John cared more about spiritual faithfulness than outward success.

Question 4

Why was hospitality so important in 3 John?

Traveling Christian workers often depended upon believers for practical support.

Hotels and modern travel systems did not operate as they do today.

Hospitality could provide:

Food.

Shelter.

Safety.

Encouragement.

Resources.

Fellowship.

Gaius's hospitality therefore became part of gospel ministry.

His home and resources helped God's servants continue their work.

Question 5

How can Christians today become “fellow workers for the truth”?

Not every Christian has the same ministry assignment.

But believers can support gospel work through:

Prayer.

Financial giving.

Hospitality.

Transportation.

Encouragement.

Providing materials.

Helping missionaries.

Supporting faithful churches.

Assisting Christian workers.

Sharing resources.

When believers faithfully help those who proclaim truth, they participate in the work.

Question 6

What was the primary problem with Diotrephes?

John identifies the heart of the problem:

Diotrephes loved to be first.

His pride then produced other sins.

He:

Rejected apostolic authority.

Spread malicious accusations.

Refused to welcome faithful believers.

Prevented others from helping.

Removed people from the church.

This demonstrates that spiritual pride rarely remains hidden.

Eventually it produces destructive behavior.

Question 7

What does Diotrephes teach us about unhealthy church leadership?

Diotrephes provides a warning against leadership based upon control and self-exaltation.

Healthy Christian leaders should not need to:

Dominate people.

Silence disagreement through intimidation.

Destroy reputations.

Control every decision.

Remove faithful people merely because they threaten personal authority.

Jesus taught that Christian leadership is servant leadership.

Authority should be exercised for the good of God's people, not for personal power.

Question 8

Why does John tell believers not to imitate what is evil?

Examples influence us.

If believers repeatedly admire pride, power, selfishness, or ungodly behavior, they may eventually imitate those qualities.

John therefore tells Gaius:

“Do not imitate what is evil but what is good.”

We should intentionally choose examples of:

Humility.

Faithfulness.

Generosity.

Integrity.

Courage.

Love.

Christlike service.

Question 9

What made Demetrius a good example?

Demetrius had a good testimony.

Others spoke well of him.

The truth itself testified in his favor, meaning his conduct agreed with God's truth.

John and his associates also testified concerning his character.

This reminds us that reputation is built over time.

A good testimony comes when our:

Words.

Actions.

Relationships.

Faith.

Character.

Consistently agree.

Question 10

What kind of testimony is your life producing?

This question requires honest self-examination.

If people who know you well were asked about your Christian life, what would they say?

Would they describe you as:

Faithful?

Truthful?

Generous?

Hospitable?

Humble?

Loving?

Servant-hearted?

Or would they describe:

Pride?

Control?

Bitterness?

Selfishness?

Inconsistency?

The goal is not to live for human approval.

But Christians should desire lives that confirm rather than contradict their profession of faith.

Personal Application

3 John gives us a powerful progression:

Truth should live in us.

Truth should shape our walk.

Walking in truth should produce faithfulness.

Faithfulness should produce service.

Service should produce generosity.

Generosity should support God's work.

Supporting God's work makes us fellow workers for the truth.

Pride must be rejected.

Evil examples must not be imitated.

Good character should be pursued.

A faithful life should produce a good testimony.

The letter also gives us three people to examine.

Ask yourself:

Am I like Gaius—faithful and generous?

Am I developing attitudes like Diotrephes—proud and controlling?

Am I building a testimony like Demetrius—respected because my life agrees with truth?

Every believer is building a testimony.

The question is:

What kind?

XVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“You Can Support the Work Without Standing Behind the Pulpit”

Sometimes Christians think ministry only happens when someone:

Preaches.

Teaches.

Sings.

Leads publicly.

Serves on a platform.

3 John teaches something different.

Gaius helped people who had gone out:

“For the sake of the Name.”

He supported them.

John says this made him:

A fellow worker for the truth.

That means the person who:

Prays for the missionary.

Provides a meal.

Gives financially.

Offers transportation.

Opens a home.

Encourages a discouraged pastor.

Provides resources.

Helps a Christian worker continue serving.

Can participate directly in gospel ministry.

God's work requires:

Those who go.

And:

Those who help them go.

Both matter.

Not everyone has the same assignment.

But every believer can ask:

“What has God placed in my hands that can be used to advance His work?”

XVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

3 John asks us several searching questions.

First:

Is my soul prospering?

We often measure life by:

Income.

Health.

Possessions.

Success.

But John reminds us to examine the soul.

Then ask:

Am I walking in truth?

Not merely:

Do I know truth?

But:

Does truth shape the way I live?

Then ask:

Am I supporting faithful Christian work?

Maybe you cannot travel.

Maybe you cannot preach.

Maybe you cannot serve publicly.

But can you:

Pray?

Give?

Encourage?

Provide?

Help?

Then ask:

Is pride gaining influence in my heart?

Diotrephes loved to be first.

That desire eventually damaged others.

Be careful with the desire for:

Recognition.

Control.

Position.

Influence.

Then ask:

Whom am I imitating?

John says:

Do not imitate evil.

Choose godly examples.

Then ask:

What kind of testimony am I building?

Demetrius had a good testimony.

So did Gaius.

Diotrephes did not.

Character eventually becomes visible.

Therefore:

Walk in truth.

Strengthen your soul.

Serve faithfully.

Practice hospitality.

Support gospel workers.

Reject pride.

Do not misuse influence.

Imitate what is good.

Build a godly testimony.

And value people enough to know them personally.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the truth of Your Word.

Help us not merely to know Your truth, but to walk in it every day.

Strengthen our souls.

Help us grow spiritually even when our outward circumstances are difficult.

Give us the faithfulness of Gaius.

Teach us to use what You have given us to serve Your people and support Your work.

Show us how we can become fellow workers for the truth.

Give us generous hearts.

Give us hospitable hearts.

Give us servant hearts.

Protect us from the pride of Diotrephes.

Keep us from loving position, recognition, control, or influence more than we love You and Your people.

If pride begins growing within us, expose it and remove it.

Help those who lead Your people to lead with humility, courage, integrity, and love.

Teach us not to imitate what is evil.

Place godly examples in our lives and give us wisdom to follow what is good.

Help us build a testimony like Demetrius—a testimony of faithfulness, integrity, truth, and godly character.

Give us wisdom in our relationships.

Help us value face-to-face fellowship and remember that people matter individually.

May our lives bring joy to those who have invested spiritually in us.

May our homes, resources, finances, abilities, and influence be available for Your purposes.

And may everything we do be done:

For the sake of the Name of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” — 3 John 4

Central Truth

Those who walk faithfully in God's truth should use their lives and resources to support His work, reject pride, imitate what is good, and build a testimony that honors Jesus Christ.

3 John in One Sentence

Walk faithfully in the truth, generously support those who serve Christ, reject self-exalting leadership, imitate what is good, and build a godly testimony that advances the work of Jesus Christ.