

# 3 John

## Chapter 1

The writer of 3 John is John the apostle. It is said to have been written around 85 - 95 A.D. the letter was written to Gaius, a Christian brother, and perhaps a pastor of a local congregation. John writes to encourage Christian hospitality to those who were taking care of traveling preachers of the gospel. Diotrefes was a dictatorial leader who rejected John's apostolic authority and was refusing to adhere to the message of Jesus coming in the flesh. He was a malicious gossip and was refusing to help Christian brothers to prove his point.

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING:** Read Chapter One

### **SUMMARY: Verses 1-14**

1. John considered himself not only an apostolic authority but an elder of God's church.
2. Love is not just an emotional plea. Love is an expression of God's Truth. Truth and loves must coexist.
3. God's desire is for you to prosper in every way - physically and spiritually. To PROSPER means to have total health in every area, physical, emotional, and spiritual.
4. To be faithful to Truth is confirmed as you walk out that Truth. You can't be deemed faithful if your walk doesn't match your belief.
5. Walking in Truth produces joy. Even though the contrary seems to refute such. Many view obedience as burdensome. But obedience produces a joyful outcome.
6. Another proof of faithful Christian witness is how you treat other brothers and sisters in Christ. It's hard to be deemed a faithful Christian if you are not showing love to other Christians.
7. The actions of one person can make or break the testimony of an entire congregation.
8. How you treat others is an expression of how you treat God.
9. We should use our resources to support the gospel so that God's House and His people don't have to rely on the world's system for support.
10. Diotrefes loved to lead in a dictatorial fashion. His leadership was self-centered.
11. To gossip and slander with your words is a sign that evil is at work in your life.
12. Demetrius had a good testimony. Living by Truth will give you a good testimony. People are watching what your life, words, and actions produce.
13. Face to face relationship is always better than mere pen and ink.

### **REFLECTION**

1. What verse stuck out most to you?
2. Sometimes obedience is a difficult walk. However, it is said to produce joy. How do you see obedience producing joy?
3. Why do you think Christians focus on spirituality as a sign of a good Christian when it's clear God wants every realm of your life to prosper? How can prospering physically / emotionally show to others God reality in your life?
4. Have you ever known someone that was a gossip? How did that effect you? How did it effect others?
5. Why is gossip so detrimental in the body of Christ?
6. Why is it so important for Christians to use their resources to support God's work?
7. Why is a good testimony so important?

### **APPLICATION**

1. Are you a gossip? What would define a gossip to you?
2. How could your faithfulness to Jesus be better demonstrated in your walk?
3. How is your testimony: in your home, at your work, among your friends, with God?

