



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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God's Desire for Your Well-being!

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

John was concerned for Gaius's physical and spiritual well-being. This was in direct contrast to the popular heresy of the day that taught the separation of spirit and matter and despised the physical side of life. Today, many people still fall into this way of thinking. Our attitude logically leads to one of **two** responses: neglect of the body and physical health, or indulgence of the body's sinful desires."

God is concerned for both your body and your soul. As responsible people of God, we should neither neglect nor indulge ourselves, but care for our physical needs and discipline our bodies so that we are at our best for God's service. It emphasizes a desire for holistic well-being (physical and material) to align with a person's vibrant spiritual health, serving as a prayer for balanced life.

There are three kinds of blessings that are God's will: (1) material and spiritual prosperity; (2) bodily healing and health; and (3) soul salvation with spiritual growth. **Many people think prosperity and success come from having power, influential personal contacts, and a relentless desire to get ahead.** But the strategy for gaining prosperity that God taught Joshua (1:5-9) goes against such criteria. He told Joshua that to succeed he must (1) be strong and good courage because the task ahead would not be easy, (2) obey God's Law, and (3) constantly read and study God's Word. To be successful, follow God's words to Joshua. **You may not succeed by the world's standards, but you will be a success in God's eyes, and His opinion lasts forever**

James 5:14-15 tells us: *"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."* Oil can represent both the **medical** (Good Samaritan – Luke 10:30-37); and the **spiritual** spheres of life (anointing kings – 1 Samuel 16:1-13). Jesus Christ is Lord over both the body and the spirit. We should be able to count on others for support and prayer, especially when we are sick or suffering. **God heals and all prayers are subject to God's will.** But our prayers are part of God's healing process.

Jesus came to earth to save us because we couldn't save ourselves from sin's consequences (Matthew 1:21). Only Jesus can do that. Adam's disobedience brought us into sin's bondage. No matter how good we are, we can't eliminate the sinful nature present in us (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23). Jesus didn't come to help people save themselves; He came to be their Savior from the power and penalty of sin. We should continually be thankful for Him paying the penalty for our sins and we must surrender our lives to Him.

Jesus' death points to **two** wonderful truths—redemption and forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7). Through His death, Jesus paid the price to release us from slavery sin. Now we are forgiven on the basis of the shedding of Jesus' blood, because He died and was the perfect and final sacrifice. Grace is God's voluntary and loving favor given to those He saves. We can't earn it, nor do we deserve it. No religious or moral effort can gain it, for it comes only from God's mercy and love. Without God's grace, no person can be saved. We become children of God through His unmerited grace, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. While no action or "work" we do can help us obtain salvation, God's intention is that our salvation will result in acts of service. **We are not saved merely for our own benefit but to serve Christ and build up the church** (Ephesians 4:12).

We must **grow spiritually** in the following areas of our life: In Fruitfulness – 2 Cor. 9:10; Into Christ – Eph. 4:15; In Love – 1 Thess. 3:12; Unto Perfection – Heb. 6:1; Through "The Word" – 1 Pet. 2:2; By Accretion – 2 Pet. 1-6; and In Grace and Knowledge – 2 Pet. 3:18.

People of God remember what God is saying: My love is agape (unconditional) and I wish above all things that You may prosper and be in health, even as Your soul prosper!