

Walk in the Truth

PRECEPT

3 JOHN 1:1-11

¹ The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ² Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I was overjoyed when brothers came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth. ⁵ Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brothers and sisters, and especially when they are strangers; ⁶ and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God... (Read the chapter in its entirety.)

PROMISE

What does being a Christian mean to us? Does it only refer to us knowing the Word of God? Or does it also mean walking and practicing the Word of God? We can acquire all the knowledge in the Bible and even finish reading the book multiple times, but if we are not living in truth, we cannot truly say that we are children of God. 3 John 1:11 tells us *"Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does what is good is of God; the one who does what is evil has not seen God."* This does not mean that Christians never sin or that someone who has done evil is not saved, but we cannot live a life of sin without repentance and transformation and call ourselves Christians. We are to point out the evil in us and eradicate whatever it is, with God's mercy and help.

Walking in truth is truly a very challenging task, for we are to do this daily and regularly. Deep in our hearts, we want to obey God and do what He commands us to do, but life's pressures can come in our way. Difficult people, uncontrollable circumstances, and tough situations always confront us. We know for a fact that life would not always happen the way we plan it. Sometimes, God has other plans for us which are greater, but we do have to go through trials, for our own good. Let us assess in which areas we are not fully obeying God and ask for His help and guidance in order for us to walk in truth.

In a letter in 3 John, John contrasts two church leaders namely Gaius and Diotrephes. Gaius is said to be walking in truth, faithful, treats the brethren well, and even supports travelling teachers. Diotrephes on the other hand, is a prideful church leader who "loves to be first" and committed ungodly actions. The difference here is clear, although Diotrephes is a teacher who knew the truth, his life was a contradiction to the truth of the Gospel. This is why we are instructed not only to know the truth and be aware of the truth, but to walk on it. The person who knows God intimately will abide in Him and do what is good. John also tells us about supporting travelling workers, *"so that we may prove to be fellow workers with the truth."* (verse 8). How are we doing in the area of tithing? Are we being faithful to God in this aspect? John mentioned it in this verse as this is an important aspect of walking in truth. God does not need our money but he tests our hearts to see what we truly treasure in life (Matthew 6:21).

Our actions can be a reflection of our relationship with God; if we say we walk in truth, we must obey God at all costs and love Him and others genuinely and unconditionally. We each have our own struggles and battles that we are fighting, if we truly desire to walk in truth, God will honour our desire and strengthen us to do His will.

PRACTICE

1. Self Assessment. In what area of your life are you not walking in truth? How can you be intentional in obeying God fully?

2. Witnessing in Truth & Love. How can we witness to our family, friends, and community in a way that displays both truth and love?

PRAYER

I. Life Worship

- Pray for commitment, perseverance, and joy as they continue to lead our brethren in worshipping the Lord.

II. Life Link Ministry

- Pray that this ministry will be a blessing to people as they come to worship with us on Sundays.

III. Life Kids Ministry

- Pray for sustenance, strength, and joy as they disciple the next generation.

IV. Worship Services

- Pray that our church services will lead people to know, love, and obey God.

V. Salvation

- Pray that we will all be an instrument for other people in our circle to encounter and know Christ.

VI. Love

- Pray that love will abound in all areas of our lives, at all times. May we show this in action to others.

VII. Joy

- Pray for joy as we continue to live our lives as Christians. May the Holy Spirit pour out His presence on us.