

III John 2 – “I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

#### PRAYER FOR HEALTH AND PROSPERITY

John prayed that Gaius would prosper, literally to be helped on his journey. Or, that he would succeed in reaching his destination. To prosper can refer to succeeding in business or material things, but that is not the primary intention here. This is a prayer that Gaius' physical health would match his spiritual health. “Just as your soul prospers” is translated in the NLT as “that your body is as healthy as I know your soul is.” This verse is a contradiction of what is taught by so-called “faith-healers.” They teach that people aren't healed because of their lack of faith. That was not the case with Gaius. His spiritual condition was good, but his physical condition wasn't. Many times prayers for complete healing aren't answered. Complete healing should not be promised to anyone unless someone has the faith for it. That, by the way, is the faith of the person praying, not the faith of the sick person. “The prayer of faith shall save the sick” (James 5:15).” Nevertheless, it is good to pray for the sick. They need the encouragement of the Spirit. If they don't get well, they may get better because of prayer. There is nothing wrong in praying for another's prosperity. That prayer is specific enough for physical needs, yet general enough for God's will. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. When we pray and leave the results to God, we leave room for His good and perfect will.