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Hidden Heroes In The Bible
A Tale of Three Kids

4 Corners Church
April 26, 2026

3 John ¹ *The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.* ² *Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.* ³ *For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth.* ⁴ *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.* ⁵ *Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are,* ⁶ *who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.* ⁷ *For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.* ⁸ *Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.*

Gaius: Faithful

Faithfulness is not flashy, but in the Kingdom of God, faithfulness is fruitful.

Seven Characteristics of Gaius

1. He walks in the truth.
2. He is beloved.
3. He has a healthy soul.
4. He is faithful in ordinary things.
5. He practices costly hospitality.
6. He partners with gospel mission.
7. He serves without needing to be first.

3 John ⁹ *I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.* ¹⁰ *So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.* ¹¹ *Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.*

Diotrephes: Overbearing

Diotrephes “likes to put himself first.” That is the disease. Everything else is a symptom.

Seven Characteristics of Diotrephes

1. He loves preeminence.
2. He rejects legitimate authority.
3. He uses words as weapons.
4. He refuses fellowship.
5. He punishes those who do right.
6. He confuses control with leadership.
7. He is a negative example to be resisted, not imitated.

3 John ¹¹ *Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.* ¹² *Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.*

Demetrius: Good Testimony

Demetrius has what every Christian should want: not fame, not hype, not platform — testimony.

Seven Characteristics of Demetrius

1. He has a good reputation.
2. He has been tested by community.
3. He is aligned with the truth.
4. He is affirmed by mature leaders.
5. He does not need to self-promote.
6. He is safe to commend.
7. He embodies the good John says to imitate.

The “We” Passages: Our Shared Responsibility

3 John ⁸ *Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth...* ¹² *Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.*

“We ought to support people like these.”

- Mission is not optional. When faithful gospel workers go, faithful churches send.
- You can be a fellow worker for the truth by supporting the work of truth.

“That we may be fellow workers for the truth.”

- The person preaching and the person supporting the preaching are both participating in the work.
- No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.

“We also add our testimony.”

- Healthy Christians do not only critique what is bad. They commend what is good.
- A healthy church must have the courage to confront what is evil and the joy to celebrate what is good.

3 John ¹³ *I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.*

“We will talk face to face.”

- “Face to face” is the language of healthy relationship.
- “By name” – they know and are known. Love and are loved, celebrate and are celebrated.