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I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a *light to the nations*... Isaiah 42:6

February 2024

3 John 2 (NKJV)

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

I have been **thinking** about this scripture for some time now and as we are already more than a month into a new year, I have a sense of urgency to share this with as many people as possible, with the intent to make sure we are **thinking** clearly concerning the things we are to face in 2024. This is important because what we believe is a result of what we think. If we think wrong, we will believe wrong. If our believing is wrong, our confession will be wrong. In other words, what we say will be wrong. It all hinges on our thinking! But the Word of God has been given to us to adjust our thinking! OK, but what does that scripture have to do with my thinking? Keep reading.

It is important to understand the Biblical principle of Spirit, Soul and Body. Briefly, the Bible teaches that we are made of three parts, spirit, soul, and body. Most people understand that there is a difference between the body and the other two. But sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the spirit and the soul.

1 Thess. 5:23 says: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

To simplify: (1) **You are spirit.** Your spirit is the part of you that connects with God - spirit to Spirit.

(2) You have a **soul** - The mental part of man, mind, will and emotions. The part that reasons and **thinks**. That's what I've been **thinking** about lately.

(3) Your spirit and soul live in a **body** - an "Earth suit". We contact the physical world with our physical body. We also call it the flesh.

All 3 parts of who we are must be fed to survive and we choose the kind of food each one gets. Food that's good for you, or food that's bad for you. Your body (flesh) will always want to do what it wants to do - what makes it feel

good, so your mind and your spirit have to decide for the body what it will do. Our focus here is on the soul and how it can prosper. Most of the teaching I have ever heard on 3 John 2 has been about prospering and being in health, but not much said about the connection to the soul.

The Bible says, (Prov. 3:5) "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding (mind)*".

2 Cor. 10:5 tells us we are to "...bring into captivity every **thought** (*thinking*) to the obedience of Christ".

The Bible also tells us that we should not be conformed to this world but rather be *transformed* by the renewing of your **MIND**... (Rom. 12:2)

We renew our mind (soul) by studying the Word of God. The Bible teaches us to have "**the mind of Christ**". (1 Cor. 2:16) The only way we can have the mind of Christ is to study His Word, believe it in our heart, and act upon it.

The Word of God also teaches us to **think** on whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, or whatever has virtue or praise (Phil. 4:8). So the Word of God does have **much** to say about the mind and how we think!

So, I've been thinking about 3 John 2 and how does my soul prosper? If prospering in **all things** and being in health, is connected to the prosperity of my soul, what does that mean, and what can I do about it? A good place to start is what you allow yourself to see and hear. This will require development of your powers of focus and concentration. And to be honest, one of the most challenging things you will ever do is learning to control your mind. And it's sad, that most people don't even try. And they don't have a clue why there's so much chaos and lack of peace in their life.

Jesus said in Luke 8:18, "...take heed **how** you hear. And in Mark 4:24 he also said, "*Take heed **what** you hear, with the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.*

How it's measured, has to do with how you heard it. It's



Above left: Carmen Daroczi takes a “selfie” of the class in the new Light to the Nations Bible school in Marghita, Romania. **Above center:** Here is Maria and her baby girl who was literally raised from the dead during a church service in Ózd, Hungary. Notice how the baby is doing what mama does. Train up a child in the way they should go... **Above right:** During our recent trip to Hungary, we were able to spend some time with Esther. Esther lives in Budapest with her husband Adam and sons Norbi (16) and David (2). Esther has been working as a housekeeper at the Marriott hotel, and has recently passed all her tests to become a nail technician. If you’re ever in Budapest and need your nails done, see Esther.

not always about what was actually said, but, how did you hear it? A lot of times people hear what they *expect* to hear... even if that isn’t what was said.

Then not long ago, while thinking about 3 John 2, I came across: **1 Peter 1:13** “Therefore **gird up the loins of your mind**, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; “ What on earth are the loins of my mind, and what does this have to do with the prosperity of my soul? Well, that is our topic for the next newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Light to the Nations Bible schools in Hungary and Romania are going strong, with a new one being added in Marghita, Romania. We recently reconnected with Pastor Laszlo Daroczi and his family, and his daughter Carmen has agreed to oversee the Bible school in Marghita.

A miracle in Ozd! The baby in the center photo above was standing up in a chair during a recent church service, when her weight made the chair tip backwards causing the baby to take the full force of the fall with the back of her head on the concrete floor. She didn’t cry as everyone expected, and when Pastor Istvan Sule got to her, she was not breathing! Her skin started to turn black and blue, and it looked like she was dead to everyone there. Pastor Istvan took authority over the spirit of death, and spoke life into her body. Before long she opened her eyes and began to cry, which was the most welcome cry anyone there had ever heard! The baby’s mother, Maria is a new believer and she believes she has witnessed a miracle. So do we!

Our weekly Skype teaching continues. Besides the groups that listen live to the teaching, we record the mes-

sages and send them out in MP3 format to 96 other people in several other countries who can’t join us on Wednesday. We are so pleased when some of the listeners report on how it helps them in their life. One of those reports came recently from Bela Koltai from Szolnok, Hungary. We worked with Bela years ago, when we lived in Hungary, and would travel to Szolnok weekly to teach in the church there, and he is now receiving the Skype teaching. Bela writes (translated from Hungarian):

Dear Marta and Dan,
I give thanks to the Lord that He used both of you in my life with your weekly teaching. I grew up on these teachings for the past 21 years, and I declare that God’s Word works in my life and in my family’s life. God bless you both richly.
Koltai Bela

Also, this week we have received five more requests for the Skype teaching because friends who already listen told them about the teaching. In fact, if you would like to hear our teaching (English and Hungarian) just send us your E-mail address and we will add you to the list.

Thank you partners for your support of Light to the Nations Ministries. It is your prayer and financial support that enables us to touch so many lives for the Kingdom.

Love and blessings,

Dan & Marta Lewis