

In My Spiritual Journey, Who Am I? – 3 JOHN 1

Many people have a deep interest in genealogy. They want to find out about their ancestry. They feel that this will somehow better help them to understand who they are. Learning your genealogy may cause a person to be able to put their own life in better perspective. In genealogy searches, sometimes things are found that we wish we did not know concerning ancestors. There are triumphs and tragedies that our ancestors went through. Knowing these things could help us to have a more grateful heart for where we are in our life today. Genealogy is one of America's favorite hobbies. There is something very strange about events that happen to a person involved in genealogy. We live in a world with several billion people. They suddenly find out that someone is their fourth or fifth cousin and they somehow feel close to that person. They feel connected to them. You may not have any interest in your physical ancestry, but you do need to know who you are spiritually. I am not saying we need to trace our spiritual ancestry back generation to generation; rather I am saying we need to know who we are spiritually at this moment. The little book of 3 John allows me to find some answers to the question, "Who am I in my spiritual journey?"

Who am I in my spiritual journey? A little child is born into this world pure and innocent. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14) Sadly, we do not maintain that state of being innocent; we go astray from God. In that state of innocence, the person is without guilt. They could not be charged with any wrongdoing in thought or action. We leave this innocent state by going astray from God. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) Having gone astray from God, we must then obey the gospel in order to avail ourselves of atonement by the blood of Jesus. Peter told believers to, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38) Who are you on your spiritual journey? Are you a saint or are you still a sinner?

Who am I in my spiritual journey when it comes to living by the truth? In the book of 3 John, God allowed us to look briefly into the life of a faithful brother named Gaius. This good man loved God and stood for the truth. "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth." (3 John 1:3) Our goal should be to imitate Gaius as we faithfully live by the truth of God. His faithfulness brought joy to John, his father in the faith. John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3 John 1:4) Gaius was a brother who did what he should do in the kingdom of God. In a great tribute to this good man the Bible says, "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." (3 John 1:5) in his spiritual journey, (a) Gaius loved the truth and walk in it, (b) He was benevolent toward other Christians where he lived, and (c) He was helpful to strangers who moved about spreading the gospel. We are able to observe these great things concerning Gaius in his spiritual journey, but who am I in my spiritual journey when it comes to living by the truth?