

Claiming and Speaking Health and Prosperity

By Troy J. Edwards

While working on the revision of my book “Does God Send Sickness?” I decided to take a look at 3 John 2. In this passage, God inspired John to write:

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

There are those who believe that the above is nothing more than a mere greeting to the man named Gaius mentioned in verse 1 and has no relevance to anyone else. I, of course, disagree with those who make this claim. Paul said that *all* Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for us (2 Tim. 3:16).

If John’s wish for Gaius has no relevance to us then it is not Scripture. But how can one claim that a certain passage is not Scripture but another is? Who gives anyone that authority to pick and choose for us which portions of the Bible are divinely inspired and relevant for us and which are not? No one. Therefore, we must ignore those who make such claims.

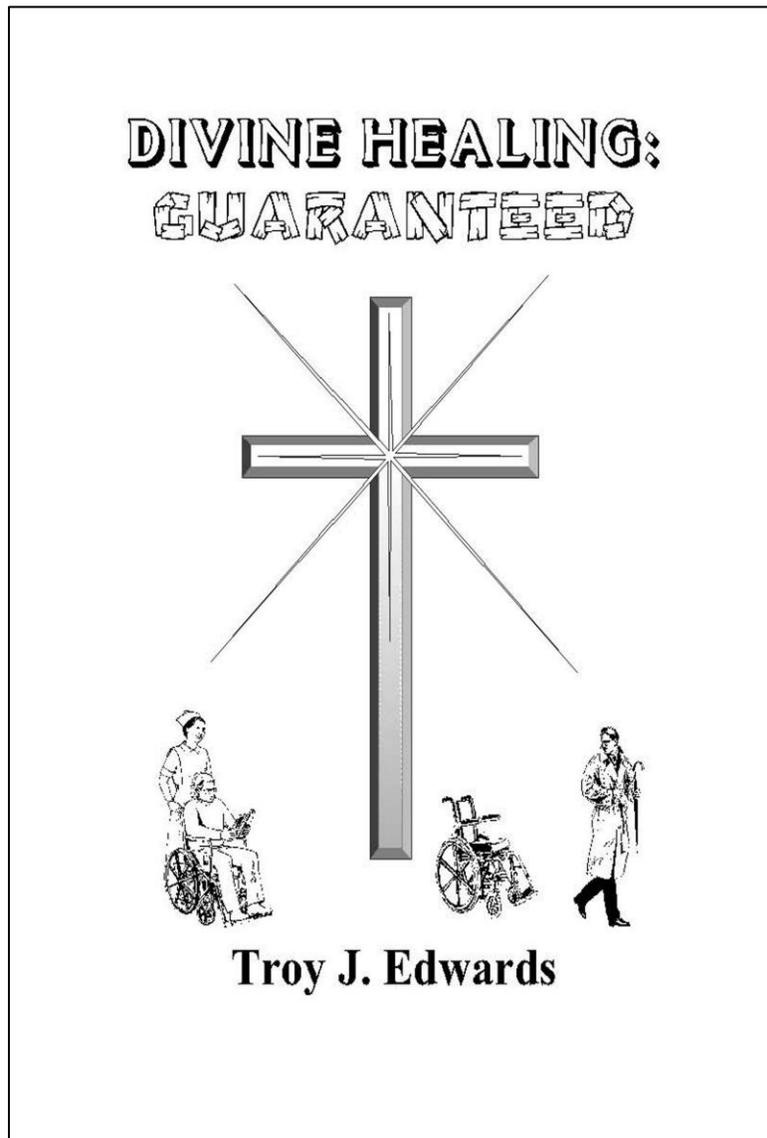
It is my usual habit one studying a passage to read it in multiple English translations The most interesting translation of the passage was found in the Jonathan Mitchell New Testament. I am going to take the liberty to emphasize (bolden) the portions that make it interesting to me:

O beloved one! I am continuously having (or: **thinking and speaking**) **goodness, ease and well-being (or: wishing and professing loudly; claiming) concerning all things [for] you** to be constantly having a prosperous journey (or: to progressively travel a good path; to habitually be prospered unto success; to be continuously helped along the Way) and **to be constantly sound and healthy [in mind, thought and body]** just as (or: to the same degree as) your soul (inner being; or: = your life) is progressively being prospered on its journey (helped along the Way; prospered unto success; caused to travel the Good Path).

If Mitchell’s expanded translation is accurate then it would seem that the Apostle John believed in speaking and claiming health, success, and prosperity over his friends. Perhaps that “name it and claim it” stuff that is often criticized by anti-Word-Faith heresy hunters might have a plain Biblical merit after all.

My advice, parents, speak health, prosperity and success over your children and families. Pastors, speak it over your congregation. Speak it over yourself and anyone under your sphere of influence. It is God’s wish for us, Jesus died that we may have it, so why not speak it and claim it. Amen.

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