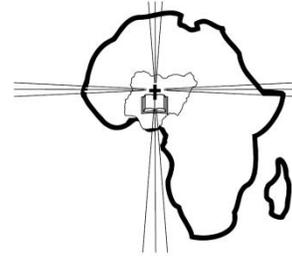


DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

A Daily Devotional Guide from the EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)



EYN leaders in Nigeria believe prayer is one of the most important ways to support the Nigerian people and the Church. These daily devotions were written by EYN members and published by the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. Reading them daily is a powerful way we can be in solidarity and connect with our brothers and sisters caught in this crisis. EYN's daily devotional for 2015 will be posted a week at a time on the blog site www.brethren.org/nigeriablog, appearing mid-week for the following week. More information about the crisis can be found at www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis.

February

Text: 1 Corinthians 1-10

Focus: God as Love

Brief Introduction

Our focus this month is God as love. Love is one of the cardinal themes of the New Testament. God Himself is by nature love. Every act of God towards his creation and people is an act of love. That love is demonstrated supremely in the sacrificial death of His Son Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind. As we consider the book of 1 Corinthians we will come to discover that, that same love is expected and commanded of his people.

February 1st Sunday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Topic: A Call to Holiness

As in his usual style of writing, Paul the apostle started by introducing himself to the recipient, the believers at Corinth. He said his apostleship was based on the call of the Lord Jesus and by the will of God which is against human will. This then means that the call of God upon a person is their license and authority to convey the council of God to his people as an apostle (messenger). Paul addressed the believers as those sanctified in Christ. All believers are to see themselves as saints now that they are in Christ. To maintain this new position comes the call to be holy. The call to be holy is a universal call to all those who call on the name of Christ. To live a life of holiness is to be different, blameless and dedicated to God amidst corruption.

Lesson: *We are not only called to salvation but also to a life of holiness.*

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, guide me in the way of holiness.*

February 2nd Monday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Topic: God is Faithful.

The faithfulness of God calls for thanksgiving. Apostle Paul was always thankful to God for his grace given to the Corinthian believers. And for how they were enriched in every way. Paul as a faithful servant had been a witness for Christ to the Corinthians and they believed his witness. He was grateful to God for proving Himself faithful by confirming their testimony about Christ Jesus in the lives of those that believed. God is able to keep strong and blameless all who believe every testimony about Christ to the end. Based on the fact that God has called us in to fellowship with the Son Jesus, He is ever faithful.

***Lesson:** God is ever true to His name, word and promise. He can be trusted and is firmly reliable. We can count on Him for everything simply because He is faithful.*

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, confirm in me every testimony about your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

February 3rd Tuesday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Topic: Divide and Rule.

Paul was informed about the division that had set in over spiritual leaders in the Church of God. Hence the reason he appealed to them to agree with one another and be perfectly united in mind and in thought because Christ is not divided. Disunity is the worst thing that could happen to any fellowship. "Divide and rule" is one of the strategies the enemy uses to gain control. When there is division in a fellowship, it goes without question that the devil is the one ruling. Spiritual leaders are meant to lead us to Christ and not to take the place of Christ in our lives.

***Lesson:** When there is unity, we seek to build one another up, but in division we seek to pull one another down.*

***Prayer:** Lord, we pray that you bind us with a cord that cannot be broken. Amen.*

February 4th Wednesday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Topic: Christ, the Wisdom of God.

The cross of Jesus Christ stands at the center of the Christian faith. The gospels make it clear that the death of Christ was not unintended, but necessary and divinely arranged for the remission of our sins. In the passage, we read Paul summarized the gospel as the message of the cross. This had become a problem to both the Jews and the Gentles. Christ crucified, to the Jews was a stumbling block and was foolishness to the Greeks who pursued wisdom. More often, God works in ways that do not have meaning to those who are wise by human standards, demonstrating His wisdom to their shame as He saves those who believe (v.20-21). God has made foolish the wisdom of the world simply because the world in its wisdom did not know Him. Christ in us is the power and wisdom of God.

***Lesson:** Any wisdom and knowledge that does not help us know Christ better is nothing but foolishness.*

***Prayer:** Dear Father, help us to be wise in your own ways. Amen.*

February 5th Thursday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Topic: Boast Only in the Lord.

In our passage of consideration today, Paul saw the need to employ the believers to reflect back to what they were before they answered the call to salvation in Christ Jesus. They were not wise by human standard, not many of them were influential and of noble birth. But God chose those that were considered foolish, weak, and lowly and despised those regarded as wise and strong by human standards. God has done that for the single reason that no one may boast before Him. It is true of us humans to easily forget about our background or our past when we are lifted by God. Worst still many tend to boast in themselves claiming the glory.

Lesson: *To boast rightly, we are to boast in the Lord Jesus Christ who has become our wisdom, righteousness and redemption (v30, 31).*

Prayer: *Father, we pray thee give us a humble spirit. Amen.*

February 6th Friday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Topic: Solid Foundation of Faith.

The Apostle Paul was a man of knowledge and a reputable orator whose audience would always want to hear him again after he spoke to them. He was a strong presence and was highly successful in the ministry. What informed his success was his understanding about the ministry. First, he had the understanding that a person can only give what they have. That was the reason he resolved to know nothing while he was with the people of Corinth, except Christ and His crucifixion. Secondly, he acknowledged his weakness and fear and submitted them to Christ knowing that without His help he would do nothing. Thirdly, to harvest souls whose faith will endure, their faith must rest on the solid foundation of God's powerful word and not on persuasive words of human wisdom.

Lesson: *The tragedy today is that so many preachers have turned out to be entertainers. And so many people are after sugar-coated sermons that lack power to make them better Christians.*

Prayer: *Gracious God, grant that Your people will be after the powerful council of Your heart that makes for victorious Christian living. Amen.*

February 7th Saturday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Topic: The Limitation of Darkness.

Today we are presented with good news about the limitation of the rulers of the underworld. Ignorantly, many believers tend to see everything regarding the kingdom of darkness with a magnifying glass. They perceive the enemy more than he really is. Our passage says the wisdom and the rulers of this age will come to nothing. There will be an end to all rulers and all works of darkness. Paul spoke of another area of the devil's limitation when he said none of the rulers of this age understood what the cross was meant for. For if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. If the devil had known that the death of Christ was meant for his defeat and the salvation of mankind he would not have crucified Christ. God alone is omniscient and the enemy is not. He can only know what God allows him to know.

Lesson: *The enemy does not know every plan of God concerning you. Therefore, trust and believe God.*

Prayer: *Precious Lord, help me believe your plans for my dear life. Amen.*