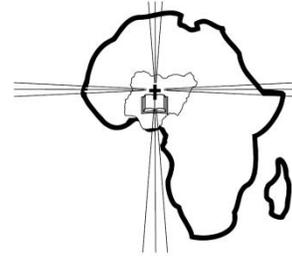


DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

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 15th Sunday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 4:6 – 7

Topic: Baseless Boasting

Today we are presented with three questions that are very much confronting in nature. First, what is the thing that makes us feel so distinguished, that we are so full of ourselves to the extent that we look down on others?

Secondly, what is the single thing in our possession that was not graciously given to us by God? Thirdly, if we obviously received everything, where then is the place for boasting? As Christians we are to know that a person can become and receive nothing unless it has been given them from above (John 3:27). Boasting about possession is understandably baseless.

Lesson: *The fact that God alone gives us the power to create wealth and become something in life should give us a sense of humility.*

Prayer: *God of mercy, pardon my boastful attitude in Jesus name. Amen.*

February 16th Monday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 4:8 – 13

Topic: The Irony of the Ministry

The text we read depicts the nature and challenges of ministry. The apostle used ironical statements to portray some facts about the work of the servant of God and the result thereof. Workers in God's vineyard have been made objects that both men and angels set their eyes on. By their acceptance to be fools for Christ many that believe their message become prudent in Christ. When they are weak and regarded as nothing, the saints are strong and honored as a result. God's servants go hungry and thirsty on account of either spiritual exercise or lack food and drink. More so, they are in rags, homeless and mistreated. They toil to meet their needs even when they know that they should be maintained financially. Because they are called to build and not to destroy souls, they bless when they are cursed. In an event when they are made the subject of discussion and slandered, they answer kindly. Endurance is their watchword in terms of persecution even when the world considers them as something to get rid of.

Lesson: *Apart from the grace of God, the results of labor that manifests in the lives of many always serve as an encouragement in ministry.*

Prayer: *Lord of harvest, give commensurate grace to your servants in the ministry. Amen.*

February 17th Tuesday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 4:14 – 17

Topic: Imitate Me

Often people name their children after others, praying that they will grow up to take after their namesake(s). Spiritual and physical parents and guardians ought to be the best examples for their young ones. Paul the apostle, as the founder of the church at Corinth, became their father in the Lord. He called on the believers with all confidence to imitate him, because he knew that he was following Christ and he had patterned his life after that of Christ. As Christians we are given a very serious task of being model people for Christ. We can only say with confidence to another to imitate us when we are truly Christ – like in all that we do and say.

Lesson: *Believers ought to live an exemplary life to the ungodly.*

Prayer: *Help me Lord, to daily shine for you before men. Amen.*

February 18th Wednesday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 4:18 – 20

Topic: The Nature of Gods kingdom

We live in a world of powers. The world is divided into two – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness. The apostle said the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but all about power. Usually the lesser power bows to the greater power. It is evident in the Old Testament, ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and the acts of the Apostles. It is true even today that the kingdom of God is the demonstration of God's power. The establishment, advancement and final victory of the kingdom of God over darkness is by the power of God's spirit. The apostles were first asked to wait in Jerusalem to receive power. To win souls for Christ, power must be involved; the strong man must be bound before he is dispossessed (Mtt 12:29). To become a child of God and remain in the family of faith is by power (John 1:12). Our fight is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers of this world (Eph. 6:12).

Lesson: *Any work done by men that is short of God's power will yield no tangible result.*

Prayer: *Omnipotent God, empower me daily through your Spirit for effective service*

February 19th Thursday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 5:1 – 5

Topic: Hand over to Satan

Reports about people, whether positive or negative, go further to places that they may not reach in person. Paul received an unwholesome report about disgusting behaviors of some members of the church fellowship. Disgusting in the sense that it was unheard of even among unbelievers. He expressed dismay over the attitude of other believers. Instead of mourning they were on the contrary proud of their fellowship. Paul instructed the fellowship to hand over such a fellow to Satan. Which means that, the local church is to suspend such a fellow from fellowship, so that he will give back to Satan that unwholesome character that is his and learn to repent and turn to the Lord.

Lesson:

- *We should watch the way we live as report about us can spread farther away.*
- *Numerical growth is not to be celebrated where sin abounds. Public sin is to be publicly condemned and not condoned.*
- *We are to give to the devil what belongs to him.*

Prayer: *Purge me, oh Lord, of every unwholesome attitude in Jesus name. Amen.*

February 20th Friday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 5:6 – 12

Topic: Avoid Bad Company

Yeast is a rising agent commonly used in bread. It is used in the scripture as an image of the kingdom of God (Luke 13:20 – 21). Yeast is metaphorically referred to as something evil. In Matt. 16:5 – 6 Jesus said to His disciples to be aware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Yeast is used by Paul the apostle in this sense. As a little yeast is so effective in a whole batch of dough, so is a little sin so effective in corrupting many in a fellowship. Believers are not to associate with immoral characters in the church of God so that they can avoid being negatively influenced.

Lesson: *Bad company corrupts good manners.*

Prayer: *Help me, oh Lord, to influence others for good. Amen.*

February 21st Saturday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 6:1 – 6

Topic: Lawsuits among Christians

Apostle Paul had to write to restore the church at Corinth to its position because the church was rapidly losing its testimony in the city. Not only did the unbelievers know about the immorality and the lawsuits in the assembly, but they were the ones handling the lawsuits. The Greeks in general were known for their involvement in the courts. As they are now in Christ, believers are to know their new and gracious position. Believers are the ones that will judge not only the unsaved but even angels. Every matter that arises among brethren should be settled amicably among them.

Lesson: *It is highly degrading on the part of Christians when one brother goes to court against another before an unbeliever.*

Prayer: *Give us a forgiving heart, oh Lord, and help us shine among the unsaved. Amen.*