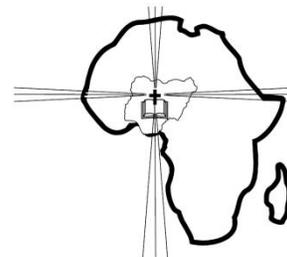


DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

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 22nd Sunday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 6:7 – 8

Topic: Losers

Paul said the fact that there are lawsuits among the people of God means that they have been completely defeated. When a brother or sister of the same family of faith takes another to the ungodly for judgment they have turned out to be losers. By such, believers lose their saltiness and their witness will have no effect. The apostle has raised a very important question that every believer needs to consider; “why not rather be wronged and cheated by those outside the household of faith?” but unfortunately brothers of the same faith cheat and wrong one another. If there is a true fellowship, why will there be cheating among us in the first place.

Lesson: *It is far better to agree to be cheated and wronged than as a Christian to do so unto another.*

Prayer: *Peaceful Redeemer, let there be peace among brethren now and always. Amen.*

February 23rd Monday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 6:9 – 11

Topic: Do Not Be Deceived

In view of the previous instruction that believers are not supposed to cheat on one another, Paul asked the Corinthians a rhetorical question. “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?” The church should have known that no ungodly person no matter his position in the local assembly or the years such individual has been in the church will have a part in the kingdom of God.

God will by no means compromise on His standard when it comes to holiness as it relates to eternal life in Christ Jesus. Therefore Christians are not to be deceived by neither the sexually immoral of any kind, nor those that always want to reap where they have not sown, nor drunkards, nor will slanderers inherit the kingdom of God.

***Lesson:** Now that we are washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, we are not to compromise on issues of holy living.*

***Prayer:** Holy Father, sanctify me always by the truth of Your Holy Word. Amen.*

February 24th Tuesday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 6:12 – 20

Topic: Honoring God with our Bodies

Of all the things that are permissible, that which does not add value to life is not worth giving attention to. And of all that are permissible, one should learn to have self control so that they are not mastered by anything.

Food and stomach that many are living for will be destroyed by God. As believers we are to always be conscious of the fact that we are bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. If bought, then we belong to the owner. God our owner demands that we honor Him with our bodies. We are not to abuse this body through sexual immorality, which is sin against the body and against the Lord. We are to maintain the body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The Lord has promised to raise us from the dead and give us glorified bodies as He has raised Jesus from death.

***Lesson:** The dying and the undying part of us all matter to God. We are to honor God with the whole of our being.*

***Prayer:** Spirit of the living God, come and take your rightful place in me. Amen*

February 25th Wednesday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 9:1 – 4

Topic: The Right of Servants of God

Those that work in the vineyard of God have the right to be supported by the people they minister to. The apostle gave five points to prove this right to those that sit in judgment on him.

1. Calling (apostleship). The very fact that one has been called and sent by the Lord to serve Him. That has given him the fundamental right to be supported (v.1).
2. Human experience teaches us that the laborer is worthy of their reward. A soldier receives a pay, a farmer gets a harvest and a shepherd has the right to benefit from the milk of the flock (V.7).
3. The Old Testament law says “do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain”. Deut. 25:4. The ox has the right to benefit from the grain for its labor (v.8 – 12).
4. According to the Old Testament practice, the Priests and Levites were to have their food from the Temple (v.13).
5. The Lord Jesus says those who preach the gospel should have their food from the gospel (v.14).

Lesson: *The laborer is worthy of his wages, is a fundamental principle that should not be neglected by the church.*

Prayer: *Dear Lord, give us the heart to always extend a helping hand to your servants. Amen.*

February 26th Thursday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 9:24 – 27

Topic: The Christian Race

The Corinthians would have been familiar with the Greek Olympic Games as well as their local Games. Based on that, Paul used it as a very relevant metaphor. An athlete must discipline themselves and watch their diet as well as their hours, so that he will win a prize though perishable. As Christians, we are in the race because we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. We run to get a reward that is everlasting – the crown of life. For us to win the race we must individually subject our bodies to make it obedient to the word of God so that we will not at last be cast away after our toil in the service of the Lord.

Lesson: *We cannot afford to quit even when the race gets tough. Our expected prize, the crown of life, should be our motivating factor.*

Prayer: *Gracious Father, I pray that I will not suffer loss at the end of my race. Amen.*

February 27th Friday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 10:1 – 12

Topic: Treasures of Examples

Our text today is a call to the saints to learn from the forefathers of Israel. The Holy Scripture as a complete book is full of both positive and negative examples. It is repeatedly mentioned in our text that they are put together for our learning. The negative examples are written down as warnings for us to take heed. The good examples are there for us to imitate. The whole Bible contains the following:

- Instructions to obey
- Standards to live by
- Promises to claim
- Examples to learn from

Lesson: *With the treasure of God's word, we have no excuse before God.*

Prayer: *O Lord, may the purpose of Your word be fulfilled in my life. Amen.*

February 28th Saturday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 10:13

Topic: Not Beyond Your Ability

God is not the author of temptation but the devil is. Yet it comes not without His permission. Temptations are meant by the devil to bring us down. God allows them to come so that it will be proved to the enemy that nothing will separate us from the love of God. Job of old is an example. Of all the temptations that befall men there is none that is newly invented which others did not pass through. Because God knows the strength of our faith and our weakness, He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear. And with every temptation, God graciously does provide a way for us to emerge as victors.

Lesson: *We are capable of handling every temptation that comes our way, because God is ever faithful.*

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see the way you do provide for our escape in every temptation. Amen.*