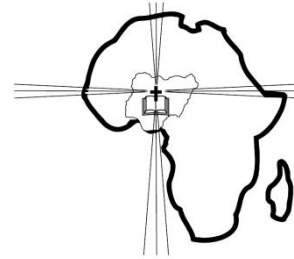


# DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

## 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](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriablog), appearing mid-week for the following week. More information about the crisis can be found at [www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis).

### April

Text: 2 Timothy 1-4

#### Brief Introduction

This month is a blessing for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. These passages are not talking about the Easter season, but Christ has risen and He remains victorious. As we study His word, let us reflect on His salvation for the world.

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 2015

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1:12

#### **Topic: Suffering for the Gospel**

Paul suffered imprisonment and the discomforts associated with it because he preached the gospel. Nevertheless, he was not ashamed of the gospel or of himself (cf. Rom. 1:16). His confidence lay in the person of God. He believed that God is faithful. God would protect something that Paul had placed with God for His protection and preserve that until the day he would see Christ face to face at the Rapture or death (cf. v. 18; 1 Cor. 3:13; 2 Cor. 5:9-10). Deposit refers to the faith entrusted to Paul that he would figuratively hand back to God when he saw Him. Paul used the "deposit" in this last sense in verse 14 and in 1 Timothy 6:20. Our suffering for Christ is not in vain.

**Lesson:** Be a prisoner for Christ.

**Prayer:** Help us to be committed to You our Lord. Amen.

**April 6th Monday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 1:13**

**Topic: Preach the Same Message**

Timothy felt temptation to modify his message as well as to stop preaching it. Paul urged him therefore to continue preaching the same message he had heard from Paul and to do so with trust in God and love for people, which Jesus Christ would supply. With his usual skillful way with words, Paul is saying in effect that as God has guarded the deposit of his life (and will guard Timothy's) so also Timothy must guard the deposit of the faithful account of the gospel that God has entrusted to him. He should guard God's revelation that God had entrusted to him as a minister of the gospel (cf. 1 Tim. 6:20). The indwelling Holy Spirit (as well as the Son, v. 13) would enable him to do so. The appeal has come full circle. It began with God's Spirit and His power and it has ended with the Spirit's enabling power.

**Lesson:** Start with God.

**Prayer:** Jesus Christ, You are our redeemer. Help us to serve You. Amen.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 1:15**

**Topic: Do Not Abandon the Gospel**

The Christians in Ephesus and in the province of Asia where Ephesus stood had so thoroughly abandoned Paul that he could say all had turned from him. Paul may have meant all the leaders or his former colleagues who had left him by himself in prison in Rome. Probably not all of these people had turned from the gospel; the statement is probably hyperbolic. Timothy was the last to maintain his loyalty to and support of Paul among that group, and he was now feeling temptation to abandon him. Phygelus and Hermogenes' names occur nowhere else in Scripture. They had been strong supporters of the apostle in the past but had eventually turned from him like the rest. These verses [vv. 10, 15, and 16] show that Paul's current imprisonment was decidedly more severe than the one in Acts 28:23, 30-31. Be ready for the gospel.

**Lesson:** The gospel is our life.

**Prayer:** Redeemer, teach us to uphold Your word. Amen.

**April 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 1:16-18**

**Topic: Behave Responsibly**

Moral behavior is best learned by observing such commitment in others. Children learn this behavior from parents. Young Christians learn it from older Christians. Ultimately moral behavior cannot be taught merely by character-building courses in the public schools. Christians must see moral commitment as a sterling example in others. Paul was not ashamed to present himself as the initial example he gave to Timothy. He had no doubt that his behavior was worth imitating. Christian leaders today need to have such a commitment to Christ that they are unashamed to say in humility, "If you want an example to follow, look at me."

**Lesson:** Can others imitate you?

**Prayer:** Help us to live a life worthy of imitation our Lord. Amen.

**April 9th Thursday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 2:1**

**Topic: Empowering grace**

Paul's charge in this verse is a general one. Specific responsibilities follow. On the basis of what he had already written, Paul urged his son (Gr. *teknon*, lit. child, an affectionate term) to let Christ's grace empower him. God then can and will provide strength. Christ is the dynamo for power only when and while we keep in touch with him. 2:2 Just as Paul had passed the torch of ministry on to Timothy, so now Timothy should do so to other men who gave evidence that they too would be faithful. These should in turn instruct others who would follow them. Faithfulness negatively consists in their not losing, neglecting, ignoring, or falsifying (like the false teachers mentioned in this letter) what Paul has said, and positively consists of their accurately handling the word of truth.

**Lesson:** The Lord will empower you.

**Prayer:** Help us Lord to persevere. Amen.

**April 10<sup>th</sup> Friday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 2:3-4**

**Topic: Hardships in Ministry**

Paul's long ministry with Timothy had included many hardships. Now, as Timothy looked forward to training other younger men, he could expect more of the same. Paul urged him to submit to difficulties as a good soldier. The apostle used three illustrations to help Timothy appreciate the logical consistency of this exhortation (cf. 1 Cor. 9:7, 10, 24). The first illustration is the soldier (cf. Eph. 6:11-17; 1 Thess. 5:8). Paul's emphasis in this illustration was on the importance of remaining free from entanglement with other lesser goals and activities while serving the Lord. This is something about which Paul had previously warned Timothy (1 Tim. 6:3-16; cf. Matt. 13:22; Luke 8:14). Obviously Paul did not mean that a minister should always give all of his time to preaching and teaching to the exclusion of any tent-making activities. He meant that he should not let other duties drain off his energies or interests or divert him from his primary responsibilities as a Christian soldier. Demas, whom Paul mentioned later, turned out to be a bad soldier in this respect (cf. 4:10). As an ordinary soldier must be single-minded in his purpose, rigorous in his self-discipline, and unquestioning in his obedience, so must every soldier of Christ.

**Lesson:** Be a good soldier.

**Prayer:** Help us Jesus to be good soldiers. Amen.

**April 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday 2015**

**Text: 2 Timothy 2:5-7**

**Topic: The Athlete and the Farmer**

Paul's second illustration, the athlete, emphasized the need to minister according to the rules that God has prescribed. To do this we must minister with proper motives, with purity of life, and obedience to all of God's will to win His approval. Competitors at the Olympic Games had to swear an oath before the statue of Zeus that they had been in strict training for ten months. As an athlete must deny himself or herself, endure hardship, and persevere to the end, so must every spiritual athlete. 2:6 Paul's third illustration, the farmer, emphasized the toil necessary if one wants to enjoy the fruits of his or her labors. A farmer must continue to sow seed and water it if he or she wants to harvest its fruit. Likewise the farmer for Christ must plant and nourish the gospel seed if he or she eventually expects to reap the fruit of God's Word in the lives of people. All three illustrations imply dogged persistence and hold out the prospect of eventual reward for the faithful. 2:7 Paul encouraged Timothy to meditate on what he had just written knowing that the Lord (probably Jesus, cf. v. 8) would help him see the wisdom of his words. Paul's illustrations yield many practical lessons as one meditates on them. The apprehension of spiritual truth is not primarily a matter of mental acumen but of spiritual teachableness.

**Lesson:** Learn from the three examples.

**Prayer:** Help us to be good athletes Lord Jesus. Amen.