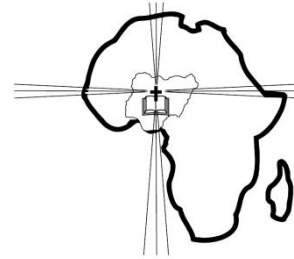


DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

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 8th Sunday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

Topic: Spiritual Discernment

The Christian faithful are the most privileged people on earth. The secret of God's wisdom that is hidden to the world is revealed to us. No one knows the deep thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. The Spirit has come purposely to make us His place to abide in and to teach and guide us in all truth (John 16:12-14). A carnal person does not have the Spirit of God and cannot understand the things of the Spirit because they are not spiritually discerning. The spiritual person makes right judgment because they have the right Spirit living in them. The Spirit of God helps us to understand the perfect will of God.

Lesson: *We can boldly say we have the mind of Christ when we have the right sense of judgment because His Spirit dwells in us.*

Prayer: *Dear Lord, grant that we always remain spiritually connected to you. Amen.*

February 9th Monday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

Topic: Spiritual Immaturity

The writer expressed disappointment over the spirituality of the Corinthians. When they first believed, he considered them infants and did not give them hard teachings. After so many years he expected them to exhibit a level of maturity in the faith. But he addressed them as worldly, mere infants and mere men because their attitudes expressed spiritual immaturity. Jealousy, quarreling and division in the church of God are indicators of spiritual immaturity and worldliness. Spiritual maturity demands we grow daily in our relationship with God and with men. The Psalmist said, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity". Ps 133:1.

Lesson: *Jealousy, quarreling and division reduce the people of faith to "mere men".*

Prayer: *Peaceful God, grant that we may abide in love, peace and unity. Amen.*

February 10th Tuesday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Topic: Only Servants

The Corinthian Christians were divided over past and present leaders. Some pledged allegiance to Paul while others to Apollos. Paul wrote to correct that misappropriation of allegiance. He drew their attention to the only One that matters which is Christ. Leaders are to be seen as co-workers. They can achieve nothing unless the Lord blesses the gospel they preach. Today many take it as a business to compare and contrast between leaders. They regard, credit and favor one leader as they disregard, discredit and disfavor another.

Lesson: *Leaders are to be regarded as co-workers in God's field. No two leaders are the same and each will be rewarded according to his or her work.*

Prayer: *Oh Lord, open our eyes to see our spiritual leaders the way you see them. Amen.*

February 11th Wednesday 2015

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15

Topic: Building with caution

In the passage we read, building work is used as a metaphor to depict the church as the body of believers. As the founder of the church at Corinth, Paul said he founded the church by the grace given to him not by his power. He called himself an expert builder because he laid the right and perfect foundation on which the faith of the believers rested. No one can lay any foundation other than the one he has laid that is in Christ Jesus. Each person that builds on this foundation should build carefully, bearing in mind that each man's work shall be tested. God does not respect all people. If a servant of God has employed the right materials of healthy teaching and practice and built something worthwhile, he shall have his reward. Conversely, if a servant's teachings and conduct are inadequate and reduced to ashes, he shall suffer loss.

Lesson: *For our work for God to stand His test it has to be valuable, elegant and durable.*

Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us build one another up in love and truth that our work will stand your test. Amen.*

February 12th Thursday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 3:16 – 17

Topic: Real Temples

The apostle's question is a way of compelling his readers to admit to the truth of what he writes. "Don't you know that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells in you? (v. 16)" It is a way of reminding the believers of their gracious status as temples of God. Temple in this context signifies the inner and central part of the sanctuary. The Christian faithful are to always be conscious of the fact that they are uniquely the sacred abode of the Holy Spirit. God lives within us only in the exclusion of others. A solemn warning then follows that "if any man", regardless of who, destroys this Temple, God will damage him as well. In Old Testament times, a person who desecrated the temple attracted extreme penalty to himself (Lev. 15:13).

Lesson: *Churches as a building ought to be better than our personal houses, most importantly; our individual lives ought to be more holy and beautiful than the church as a physical structure.*

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

February 13th Friday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 3:18 – 23

Topic: Self Deception

The passage today warns against self deception. Self deception is the state of individuals who do not face up to their weaknesses, sins or their spiritual state with any realism; when individuals fail to tell themselves the truth. If a person thinks they are wise by the standards of this world, the apostle says they deceive themselves. To be wise in God's sight is to stand before the world as a fool. As it is with so many church fellowships today, the worship at Corinth was characterized by self deception. They were divided over Paul, Apollos and Cephas and yet gather to worship in disunity. We stand to be wise only when we live in the truth of God's word.

Lesson: *Self deception is the worst crime that an individual can commit against himself.*

Prayer: *Precious Lord, take away the spirit of deception from your people and help us live in the truth of your word. Amen.*

February 14th Saturday 2015

Text: I Corinthians 4:1-6

Topic: Servants and Stewards

This particular portion of scripture is meant to correct the wrong perception about the servants of God which brought about division in the church. Men ought to regard the preachers of the gospel as those graciously privileged to serve the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing beyond that. Many preachers that tend to take the place of Jesus by receiving honor beyond measure ought to learn from Paul the apostle. Good stewardship and faithfulness is required on the part of the ministers of the gospel as custodians of God's mysteries. Members are not to judge ministers of the gospel because it is of the Lord to judge His servants. A servant of God ought to have a clear conscience in his service to the Lord.

Lesson: *We should not go beyond what is written in the scriptures.*

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, help your servants to be faithful and good stewards. Amen.*