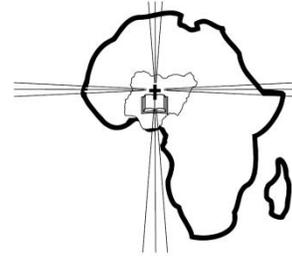


DAILY LINK WITH GOD 2015

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.

JANUARY

Text: Deuteronomy 1- 4

Focus: The correct view of God

Brief Introduction

In this new month of the New Year, the Lord is directing our attention to having a correct view of Him. When we understand God wrongly, we will definitely get every other thing wrong. In the first four Chapters of Deuteronomy "Second Law" we trust to see God correctly, as we look through the summary of Israel's journey from Sinai to the borders of the Promised Land and the section of the Law. We pray and trust the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, to open the Scriptures to us and our spiritual eyes to behold Him correctly as it was the wonderful experience of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32).

January 1st Thursday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:1-7

Topic: God's Word as a guide to destiny

v.1 "These are the words Moses spoken to all Israel...v.5 ... Moses began to expound this Law..."

When God calls a man or people, He calls for destiny. And He does not only point to destiny, but He gives His word as a guide. In time past, God has never left His people without a word and the person(s) to expound it. This is true today and neither will it happen in the future. The Israelites were just about to enter the Land of Promise and engage in a war. The word they received through Moses was not about military strategy, but of their duty and allegiance to God. If only they would fear and obey the Lord, He would secure the victory for them. For us to get to our God intended destiny we must take heed to His word as a nation, church, family and as individuals.

Lesson: *Obedience to God's word is a prerequisite for destiny attainment in this life and life after here.*

Prayer: *O Lord, help us to see and obey your word as our guide as we journey to our destiny. Amen.*

Daily Link with God 2015 – January 1-10, 2015

January 2nd Friday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:6

Topic: Enough of the stagnation

At Mount Horeb (Sinai) three important historical events were recorded. There the People of Israel saw the glory of God, received the Law and a Covenant relationship was established. There, Israelites were becoming more comfortable and God had to say enough of the stagnation. God is interested in our progress more than we can imagine. Stagnation be it spiritual, economical, educational, relational and the like is not the will of God for us as a people and as individuals. When we stick to the present level we do not see the need for progressive change. If we are comfortable with the present level we do not see the beauty and glory of the next level. As we answer the call to progress with the Lord, let us march on advancing the kingdom of God and to make heaven our home.

Lesson: As we walk with God, progress is expected and not stagnation.

Prayer: Dear Lord, give us the grace to move to the next level with you.

January 3rd Saturday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:7

Topic: Detachment for Advancement

As part of the command given to Israel, they were asked to break camp to advance because they over stayed at Sinai (Horeb). Though, it happened to be a place of glory, blessing (Law as a guide) and Covenant. God wants them to consider it as a historical place. The striking point is that, for advancement to take place there must be detachment. The People must decamp. One of the things that causes our lack of growth in so many areas as Christians is the fact that we do not want to detach from where we have been and what we are used to. For us to advance with God, we have to break free from past glory, achievements, victories, destiny helpers that God is through with and "... throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" Heb 12:1.

Lesson: We have to let go of certain things to lay hold of something better and higher.

Prayer: O Lord, help me break free from the former things so as to advance with you. Amen.

January 4th Sunday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:8

Topic: Possessing Your Possession

The land of promise had been given to Abraham and his descendants long ago. First of all, for the people of God to possess their possession, they have to "see," that is to have vision for the land. The Lord said the same thing to Abraham at first, "look as far as you can see in every direction ... I am giving all this land to you and your descendants" Gen. 13:14 – 15. We can only have, as well as possess what we have vision for. We have to see things with the eyes of our spirit before they even arrive. God has given us all that we can see in Christ Jesus just as he had given the land of promise to Israel. There may be challenges but because it is already ours, it is up to us to take possession.

Lesson: Our vision determines our limit.

Prayer: Dear father, open the eyes of my faith. Amen.

Daily Link with God 2015 – January 1-10, 2015

January 5th Monday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:9 – 12

Topic: Helping Hands to Leaders

One of the things that makes leadership too heavy a burden on leaders is the fact that people usually pass on their burden to the leaders as they stand at a distance and few or none care to assist. As part of their mandate, spiritual leaders are to pray for the blessing and increase of their people as Moses prayed. However, increase always comes with more burden on leaders as expressed by Moses in v.12. Moses had to solicit for helping hands. We are to support our leaders where necessary in prayers, advice, compliment and the like. It is our responsibility as citizens, church and family members to share in the burden of our secular, spiritual and family leaders.

Lesson: *It is a responsibility on our part as followers to extend a helping hand to all that are in position of leadership.*

Prayer: *Precious Lord, give us the grace to live up our responsibility. Amen.*

January 6th Tuesday, 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:15

Topic: The Principle of Delegation

Delegation is a principle established by God and is simply the act of sharing authority and responsibility with others. God demonstrated it by giving man authority over His creation. “A leader who keeps all his authority and responsibility to himself is failing in his leadership role” (Peter Wiwcharuck). Moses demonstrated his leadership qualities by delegating others to lead groups of people. The burden became less on him. Efficient sharing of authority and responsibility in the home, church and community is necessary to see to it that everything that needs doing is done.

Lesson: *A leader cannot do everything himself, delegation is important.*

Prayer: *Give our leaders the wisdom to share responsibilities*

January, 7th Wednesday, 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:13

Topic: Qualified Leaders

God does not compromise His standards even in the midst of scarcity when it comes to qualification for His service. Having walked with God for so many years, Moses, speaking the mind of God, gives the criteria for selection of leaders for service.

Despite the enormous burden on him that requires urgent delegation, he insisted on His standard. The people that are to be given responsibility within the church and outside must be people with wisdom, understanding and respected from all. The reason why so many systems are not functioning well in the church and the nation is because God’s standard is not adhered to.

Lesson: *For the kingdom of God to experience growth, qualified leaders are needed.*

Prayer: *Lord, give us quality leaders for your service. Amen.*

Daily Link with God 2015 – January 1-10, 2015

January 8th Thursday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:16 – 17

Topic: The Charge for Fair Service

Moses as a leader did not only entrust authority to the chosen leaders of groups, but he guided them on their functions and charged them to discharge their duty fairly. The charge is very much relevant today. It is wrong for people in any system to abuse their delegated authority. In judgment there should be fairness. The needs of both great and small should be attended to. “Do not be afraid of anyone” means no one should be above the law. “For judgment belongs to God” connotes that in every matter let the council of God prevail.

Lesson: *Just as Aaron held the hands of Moses in battle, more of such hands are needed today.*

Prayer: *Help me Lord, to always be there for my leaders.*

January 9th Friday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:19 – 21

Topic: Admonition against Fear and Discouragement

It is usually said that many things we are afraid of are not real. Fear and discouragement are two common weapons the devil uses to destroy human lives. While at the border of the land of promise, the word of God came to His people “Do not fear” and “Do not be discouraged”. Before any problem surfaces there is a word that awaits it. He gave them His word because He knew before hand the challenge they will encounter.

God does not want us to give in to fear and discouragement, as recorded in 2 Tim 1:7.

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” We are to see challenges in the light of His omnipotence and we will discover that they are nothing.

Lesson: *We can count on the Omnipotence of God.*

Prayer: *Let the Spirit of power and of sound mind manifest in me in Jesus name. Amen.*

January 10th Saturday 2015

Text: Deuteronomy 1:22 – 25

Topic: Human Strategy

The act of spying is usually a military strategy of collecting information about an opponent. The idea to spy out the land of promise seemed to be a good idea, but it was not. “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” Prov. 14:12. It is worthy to note that the suggestion came from the people and it seemed good to Moses. Because God was not involved, the outcome became a disaster as it was with Abraham, Sarah and Hagar. That is what happens when we do not seek council from God and when leaders become followers.

Lesson: *Human strategy without divine direction is dangerous.*

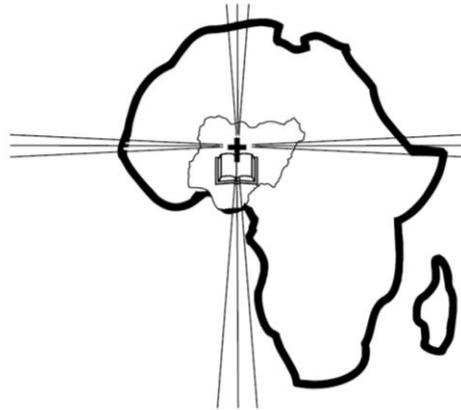
Prayer: *Dear Jesus, help me to always seek your council. Amen.*

Daily Link with God 2015 – January 1-10, 2015

DAILY LINK WITH GOD

2015

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



ABOUT THE DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Every church has the zeal for the spiritual growth of her members. That is why there are many spiritual devotional books in circulation. EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) has seen the need for her members to have a devotional book that will build them spiritually. It is for this reason that this daily devotional guide is published. This devotional material is called "Daily Link with God." The President encourages every EYN member to use Daily Link with God in order to build their family spiritually and mentally.

To achieve this, the 2015 Daily Link with God which is the fourth publication since the inception of the RPC is centered on "Knowing God and His full Purpose." The Committee realized that having dealt with the subject of worship in the previous years, knowing God and His full Purpose will be the sustaining force of the Church. In the midst of persecution, the killing of members, destruction of worship places as well as business places. The activities of the enemies of the Gospel and the Church of Jesus which has displaced hundreds of thousands of EYN members, it is obvious that what will keep the church from disappearance as the blood thirsty people could want is the knowledge of God and His full purpose which will in turn propel members to complete devotion and acceptable worship of Him.

The Church devotional guide is divided into twelve months January to December with general and monthly introduction to make it unique. There are daily readings for each day with some explanations, lessons and prayers. This is made easy for the reader as we already know the need of our church members and clergy. It is our desire and prayer that anyone that reads and concentrates on this devotional book would be linked to God and grows spiritually. By so doing it will enhance the church spiritually, morally and otherwise. Worthy of note is that the Daily Link with God is not meant to be limited only for the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, EYN) but for every believer in Christ Jesus. As you study God's word daily, you will surely be blessed.