

Open Heavens 8 July 2026 Today Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heavens 8 July 2026 devotional for today is EXCEED IN PRAYER.

This is a daily devotion written by Pastor E. A. Adeboye, General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

- **Read:** **RCCG Open Heavens 7 July 2026 Devotional**



OPEN HEAVENS 8 JULY 2026 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: EXCEED IN PRAYER

MEMORISE:
Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
Ephesians 6:18

READ: Genesis 32:24-30

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacobâ??s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.
27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.
28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.
29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that

thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.
30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

RCCG OPEN HEAVENS 8 JULY 2026 TODAY MESSAGE

Sometime in 1975, my Father in the Lord, Pa Josiah Akindayomi, came to stay with me in my little house in Ilesha, a city in South West Nigeria. Even though it was a mud house that was plastered with cement, I was happy to host my Father in the Lord.

When it was nighttime, we prayed together, and l prepared to go to bed. As I went into my room to sleep, I saw that he was still on his knees, praying, and when I woke up to use the toilet in the middle of the night and again around 5am, the old man was surprisingly still on his knees, praying. I was worried, so I asked if there was a problem, and he said I would soon understand. I have followed in his footsteps since then, and I truly now understand that, as believers, we ought to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Beloved, God has called all His children to a life of prayer. Unfortunately, however, many believers donâ??t see any reason to pray when things are going well for them. They feel that there is no need to pray because they are not experiencing any challenges. However, if you are a genuine child of God, you must pray without ceasing.

No matter how much you pray now, you can always go higher in the place of prayer. Never let your current prayer lifestyle, no matter how vibrant you think it is, make you feel as if you are doing your best. Keep pushing to be better so you donâ??t begin to relax and lose your fervency.
When I became the General Overseer of The Redeemed Christian Church of God, I went with six of my best friends to llorin, a state in North Central Nigeria, to pray for 36 hours nonstop. After the 36 hours of prayers, God revealed several things to us. We felt good with ourselves, and we thought we had achieved something unbelievable. The following week, however, I was told about a man who prayed nonstop for 30 days!

In todayâ??s Bible reading, we saw Jacob wrestling until he obtained a blessing from God that changed his life for good. Beloved, God expects you to hold on to Him in prayer without fainting (Luke 18:1). Do not relax or boast about any milestones you might have reached in the place of prayer; rather, always seek to exceed them. May the Lord continually empower you to wait on Him as you should in every season of your life, in Jesusâ?? name.

KEY POINT

God wants you to keep going higher in the place of prayer.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Proverbs 27-29

Open Heavens HYMN 11: Iâ??VE FOUND A FRIEND IN JESUS

OPEN HEAVENS DEVOTIONAL 8 JULY 2026 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: Ephesians 6:18

> *â??Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.â?•*

This verse is the apostle Paulâ??s command for the believerâ??s prayer life.

BIBLE READING: Genesis 32:24-30

This passage records Jacobâ??s all-night wrestling match at Peniel. Jacob was alone, facing the return of his brother Esau, whom he had deceived years earlier. Esau was coming with four hundred men. Jacob was terrified. Daddy Adeboye uses this to show that persistent, wrestling prayer that refuses to let go is what brings the life-changing blessing.

Pa Josiah Akindayomi: A Father in the Lordâ??s Prayer Life

1. The Night That Changed Daddy Adeboyeâ??s Prayer Life

> *â??Sometime in 1975, my Father in the Lord, Pa Josiah Akindayomi, came to stay with me in my little house in Ilesha, a city in South West Nigeria. Even though it was a mud house that was plastered with cement, I was happy to host my Father in the Lord.â?•*

This was a humble setting. A mud house, plastered with cement. But the value was not in the building; it was in the guest. Pa Akindayomi was the founder of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. His presence was a blessing.

2. The Prayer Marathon

> *â??When it was nighttime, we prayed together, and I prepared to go to bed. As I went into my room to sleep, I saw that he was still on his knees, praying, and when I woke up to use the toilet in the middle of the night and again around 5am, the old man was surprisingly still on his knees, praying.â?•*

Consider the timeline:

Time	Activity	Pa Akindayomiâ??s Posture
Nighttime	Daddy Adeboye and Pa prayed together	On his knees
Bedtime	Daddy Adeboye went to sleep	Still on his knees
Middle of the night	Daddy Adeboye used the toilet	Still on his knees
5:00 AM	Daddy Adeboye woke again	Still on his knees

â??I was worried, so I asked if there was a problem, and he said I would soon understand. I have followed in his footsteps since then, and I truly now understand that, as believers, we ought to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).â?•

Pa Akindayomiâ??s Lesson	What It Produced
Prayer is not a brief duty	It is a lifestyle
Prayer is not only for crisis	It is for all seasons
Prayer can continue through the night	It is not limited by time
A fatherâ??s example shapes the son	Daddy Adeboye followed his footsteps

The old man was not in crisis. He was not praying because something was wrong. He was praying because that was who he wasâ??a man of ceaseless prayer. And his example became the inheritance of the son who watched him.

The Error of Crisis-Only Prayer

â??Beloved, God has called all His children to a life of prayer. Unfortunately, however, many believers donâ??t see any reason to pray when things are going well for them. They feel that there is no need to pray because they are not experiencing any challenges.â?•

Crisis-Only Prayer	Continuous Prayer
Prays only when there is a problem	Prays in good times and bad
Treats prayer as an emergency call	Treats prayer as oxygen
Relationship with God is intermittent	Relationship with God is constant
Weak when the crisis comes	Strong because the connection is always live

â??However, if you are a genuine child of God, you must pray without ceasing.â?•

Why must you pray without ceasing? Not because God needs your information. Not because you need to twist His arm. But because:

- Prayer keeps you connected to the Vine (John 15:4-5)
- Prayer keeps you alert to the enemyâ??s schemes (Matthew 26:41)
- Prayer aligns your will with Godâ??s will

- Prayer positions you to receive what God wants to give
- Prayer is how you abide in Him

The Danger of Spiritual Plateau: There Is Always Higher

> *â??No matter how much you pray now, you can always go higher in the place of prayer. Never let your current prayer lifestyle, no matter how vibrant you think it is, make you feel as if you are doing your best. Keep pushing to be better so you donâ??t begin to relax and lose your fervency.â?•*

The Danger of Feeling You Have Arrived	The Remedy
You stop growing	Keep pushing to be better
You become complacent	Never feel you have done your best
You lose your fervency	Always seek to exceed your milestones

> *â??When I became the General Overseer of The Redeemed Christian Church of God, I went with six of my best friends to Ilorin, a state in North Central Nigeria, to pray for 36 hours nonstop. After the 36 hours of prayers, God revealed several things to us. We felt good with ourselves, and we thought we had achieved something unbelievable.â?•*

36 hours of nonstop prayer is extraordinary. Most believers have never prayed for 36 consecutive hours. Daddy Adeboye and his friends had every right to feel they had done something significant.

> *â??The following week, however, I was told about a man who prayed nonstop for 30 days!â?•*

Daddy Adeboyeâ??s 36 Hours	The Unknown Manâ??s 30 Days
Felt like an achievement	Put 36 hours in perspective
Thought they had done something unbelievable	Revealed that there is always higher
Good, but not the ceiling	A reminder not to relax

> *â??Do not relax or boast about any milestones you might have reached in the place of prayer; rather, always seek to exceed them.â?•*

If you pray 30 minutes a day, do not settle there. Press to one hour. If you pray one hour, press to two. If you pray two, press to an overnight vigil. If you pray one night, press to three nights. There is always higher. There is always deeper. The moment you think you have arrived in prayer, you have begun to decline.

Jacob at Peniel: Wrestling Until the Blessing Comes

â??In todayâ??s Bible reading, we saw Jacob wrestling until he obtained a blessing from God that changed his life for good.â?•

Jacobâ??s Wrestling	What It Teaches Us
He wrestled all night	Prayer sometimes requires sustained, prolonged effort
He refused to let go	â??I will not let thee go except thou bless meâ?•
He was persistent even when injured	His hip was dislocated; he still held on
He walked away with a new name	From Jacob (supplanter) to Israel (prince with God)

â??Beloved, God expects you to hold on to Him in prayer without fainting (Luke 18:1).â?•

Luke 18:1 â?? *â??And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.â?•*

The Persistent Widow (Luke 18)	Jacob at Peniel
Kept coming to the unjust judge	Kept wrestling through the night
Refused to give up	Refused to let go
Eventually received justice	Eventually received the blessing

Do not faint in prayer. Do not give up after five minutes because you have not felt anything. Do not stop after one request because the answer has not come. Wrestle. Persist. Hold on. The blessing comes to those who refuse to let go.

How to Grow in Prayer Without Ceasing (Practical Steps)

Based on Daddy Adeboyeâ??s teaching and the examples of Pa Akindayomi, Jacob, and the 30-day praying man, here is how to press higher in prayer:

1. Establish a Non-Negotiable Prayer Schedule

Do not pray only when you feel like it. Set fixed times. Daniel prayed three times daily (Daniel 6:10). David prayed evening, morning, and noon (Psalm 55:17). Start with a schedule and stick to it.

2. Lengthen Your Prayer Time Gradually

If you pray 15 minutes, aim for 20. If you pray 30, aim for 45. Do not be satisfied with your current duration. Add five minutes this week. Another five next week. Growth is incremental.

3. Incorporate Prayer into Every Activity

Pray without ceasing means turning daily activities into prayer:

- While driving, pray for other drivers
- While cooking, pray for your family
- While walking, pray for your neighborhood
- While waiting in line, pray for the people around you

4. Plan Extended Prayer Sessions

Do not rely only on daily short prayers. Schedule:

- A weekly prayer vigil (one night per week)
- A monthly prayer retreat (half day or full day)
- An annual prayer fast (24 hours, 3 days, 7 days, or more)

5. Learn from Those Ahead of You

Daddy Adeboye learned by watching Pa Akindayomi. Who is ahead of you in prayer? Ask them to mentor you. Watch how they pray. Learn from their example.

6. Never Compare Downward; Always Compare Upward

When you hear of someone who prayed 30 days straight, do not feel discouraged. Feel challenged. Say, *â??If they can do that by Godâ??s grace, perhaps I can press further than I have.â?•*

Warning: The Danger of a Comfortable Prayer Life

Daddy Adeboyeâ??s devotional carries a sobering warning: comfort is the enemy of fervency.

When Things Are Going Well	The Temptation	The Remedy
No crisis, no obvious need	To pray less or stop praying	Pray without ceasing regardless
Life is stable, predictable	To rely on routine rather than God	Keep the connection live
You have prayed a â??longâ?• prayer	To feel you have arrived	There is always higher

Pa Akindayomi did not pray all night because there was a problem. He prayed all night because that was his lifestyle. Do not wait for crisis to drive you to your knees. Stay on your knees even when the sun is shining.

Conclusion: Your Prayer for Perseverance in Prayer

Daddy Adeboye closes with a prayer that the Lord will continually empower you to wait on Him in every season. Do not relax. Do not boast. Keep pressing.

Pray this:

â??Lord Jesus, I thank You for the example of Pa Akindayomiâ??a man who prayed through the night not because of crisis but because of devotion. Forgive me for the times I have prayed only when I needed something. Forgive me for being satisfied with my current prayer life. Forgive me for relaxing when things are going well. Today, I ask for the spirit of Jacobâ??the spirit that wrestles through the night and refuses to let go until the blessing comes. I ask for the perseverance to pray without ceasing, not just in emergency but as my daily breath. Break every comfort that makes me complacent. Show me there is always higher. Help me to exceed every milestone I have reached. Give me 36 hours. Give me 30 days. Give me a prayer life that never stops. In Jesusâ?? mighty name.â?•

Action Steps:

1. **The Prayer Audit:** Track your prayer time for one week. How many minutes per day? How many hours per week? Be honest. Then set a goal to increase by 10% next week.
2. **The Extended Prayer Plan:** Schedule one extended prayer session this month (e.g., 2 hours, 6 hours, or overnight). Put it on your calendar as a non-negotiable appointment with God.
3. **The â??Higherâ?• Challenge:** Identify one person you know (or know of) whose prayer life exceeds yours. Ask God: *What can I learn from their example?* Then commit to one specific practice they model.

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