

Open Heavens 25 May 2026 Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heavens 25 May 2026 devotional for today is **STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH I**.

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 24 May 2026 Devotional**



OPEN HEAVENS 25 MAY 2026 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH I

MEMORISE

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.
Jeremiah 17:5

READ: Matthew 26:31-35, 74-75

31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.
32 But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.
33 Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.
34 Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

35 Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

74 Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.
75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

RCCG OPEN HEAVENS 25 MAY 2026 TODAY MESSAGE

In Luke 5:1-10, Peter did not fail because he wasnâ??t diligent, hardworking, or skilful. He had those characteristics, yet he failed. However, when help came from God, he succeeded. Your strength, skills, connections, and diligence are good, but if the Lord is not supporting you, they cannot make you successful.

Psalm 127:1 says:
Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Except the Lord guides and directs a fellow in his or her decisions, his or her labour will be in vain. Without Godâ??s support, a person will look like a fool who doesnâ??t know how to get to the city (Ecclesiastes 10:15).

Some young people try to do many things because they think they have the strength to do them. However, the Bible makes us understand that although the glory of the youth is their strength (Proverbs 20:29), they will faint and be weary and utterly fall (Isaiah 40:30). This means that while the strength of the youths can help them achieve some things, it is not enough. It can fail them at some point, but if they wait on the Almighty God, they will be able to soar like eagles.

In todayâ??s Bible reading, Peter felt he was strong enough to withstand temptations, yet he failed. His physical strength was not sufficient to sustain him in the day of adversity. His overconfidence in himself showed when he was sleeping instead of praying (Matthew 26:40-43). Believers who rely on their strength in the face of temptation will fail.

Many have fallen because they felt they were too prayerful to fall into sin. They believed they were too wise and strong to fall into temptation, but eventually, they let their guard down.

1 Corinthians 10:12 warns us never to think that we can stand without Godâ??s help. People who think in such a manner eventually fall.

Todayâ??s memory verse tells us that a person who puts his confidence in flesh is cursed. Samson didnâ??t fall the day Delilah called a man to cut off his hair; rather, he started falling the moment he began to trust in his strength. The day a person stops trusting in God is the day his or her downfall begins.

I pray that you will never come to a point where you feel you are strong enough to do without God, in Jesusâ?? name.

KEY POINT

Put all your trust in God alone.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Esther 1-5

Open Heavens HYMN 8: I Need Thee Every Hour

OPEN HEAVENS DEVOTIONAL 25 MAY 2026 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: Jeremiah 17:5

â??Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.â?•

This verse is a strong warning against self-reliance and human confidence. The word â??cursedâ?• is not a casual termâ??it describes a state of being cut off from Godâ??s blessing. To â??make flesh your armâ?• means to rely on your own strength, your own resources, your own wisdom, as if they were sufficient. The tragedy is not that you use your strength, but that you trust in it instead of God. When your heart departs from the LORD, you are vulnerable, no matter how capable you seem.

BIBLE READING: Matthew 26:31-35, 74-75

This passage records Peterâ??s boast and his subsequent fall. Jesus told His disciples that they would all be offended because of Him that night. Peter declared, â??Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.â?• Jesus warned him, â??Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.â?• Peter insisted, â??Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.â?• Hours later, when a servant girl accused him of being with Jesus, Peter denied it with oaths and curses. The cock crowed, and Peter remembered Jesusâ?? words. This passage demonstrates that **self-confidence is not strengthâ??it is a setup for failure. No matter how sincere your intentions, your flesh is not enough to withstand the enemy.**

The Curse of Self-Confidence

In todayâ??s devotional, **Pastor E.A. Adeboye** addresses a subtle but deadly danger: **trusting in your own strength.** Your skills, your connections, your diligence, your experienceâ??these are good gifts

from God. But when you begin to rely on them instead of Him, you are walking under a curse. The moment you stop trusting in God is the moment your downfall begins.

Peter: The Overconfident Disciple

The Bible reading gives us the classic example of self-confidence leading to failure. Peter was not lazy, unskilled, or cowardly by nature. He was a hardworking fisherman, a natural leader, and the most outspoken of the disciples. He genuinely loved Jesus.

But he trusted in his own strength.

When Jesus warned that all the disciples would fall away, Peter protested: â??Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.â?• He compared himself to others and found himself superior. â??They may fall, but not me.â?•

Jesus gave a specific warning: â??Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.â?• Peter did not back down. â??Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.â?•

Hours later, Peter denied Jesus three timesâ??with oaths and curses.

What happened? Peterâ??s strength failed him. His courage evaporated. His resolve crumbled. He who had drawn a sword in the garden now cowered before a servant girl.

Peter did not fall because he was weak. He fell because he thought he was strong.

The Folly of Fleshly Confidence

The devotional makes several observations about trusting in human strength:

1. Your strength is not enough
Isaiah 40:30 says, â??Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall.â?• Youth is the time of greatest physical strength. But even that strength has limits. It can fail you at the critical moment.

2. Your skills cannot replace Godâ??s support
Peter was a skilled fisherman. He knew the sea, the fish, and the nets. But he fished all night and caught nothing. His skill was not enough. When Jesus got into his boat, the nets broke.

3. Your diligence cannot guarantee success
Psalm 127:1 says, â??Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it.â?• You can work hard, plan carefully, and execute flawlesslyâ??but if the Lord is not building, your labor is in vain.

4. Your wisdom can make you look foolish
Ecclesiastes 10:15 says, â??The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.â?• Without Godâ??s guidance, you can exhaust yourself trying to reach a destination you cannot find.

The Curse of Trusting in Flesh

The memory verse is severe: **â??Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm.â?•**

This does not mean you cannot use your strength. It means you cannot trust your strength. The problem is not the armâ??it is where you place your confidence.

Samson is the classic example. Samson did not fall the day Delilah called a man to cut his hair. **He started falling the moment he began to trust in his strength.** He played with sin because he thought, â??I am strong enough. I can handle this. I will shake myself free as before.â?•

But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

This is the curse: You can be functioning, active, and confidentâ??while God has left you. You are like a car running on fumes, unaware that the tank is empty.

How Self-Confidence Leads to Downfall

The devotional traces the progression:

1. Overconfidence leads to carelessness
Peter felt so strong that he slept instead of praying in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40-43). Jesus had told him, â??Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.â?• But Peter was confident. He didnâ??t need to pray. He was ready.

2. Carelessness leads to vulnerability
While Peter slept, the enemy was preparing. By the time the servant girl spoke, Peter was caught off guard. His confidence had made him careless, and his carelessness made him vulnerable.

3. Vulnerability leads to failure
When the test came, Peter failed. Not because he was weak, but because he thought he was strong. The one who boasts â??I will never fallâ?• is the one most likely to fall.

The Warning for Believers

The devotional quotes 1 Corinthians 10:12: **â??Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.â?•**

- The ones who think they are too prayerful to fallâ??fall.
- The ones who think they are too wise to fallâ??fall.
- The ones who think they are too strong to fallâ??fall.

Why? Because thinking you stand is not the same as standing. Confidence in yourself is not the same as confidence in God. And the moment you shift your trust from Him to yourself, your downfall has already begun.

How to Avoid the Curse of Self-Confidence

1. Acknowledge Your Weakness
Paul said, â??When I am weak, then am I strongâ?• (2 Corinthians 12:10). Not when I pretend to be strong. Not when I act strong. When I admit my weakness, Godâ??s strength can flow.

2. Pray Like You Depend on Godâ??Because You Do
Peter slept while Jesus prayed. The result? Peter fell. Jesus stood. The difference was not courageâ??it was prayer. The one who prays is the one who stands.

3. Never Compare Yourself to Others
Peter said, â??Though all men fall away, I will not.â?• Comparison breeds overconfidence. Others may fall, but that does not mean you will stand. Your standard is not othersâ??it is God.

4. Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart (Proverbs 3:5-6)
The opposite of trusting in flesh is trusting in the Lord. Not part of your heartâ??all your heart. Not leaning on your own understandingâ??acknowledging Him in every way.

5. Wait on the Lord
Isaiah 40:31 promises that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles. They will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint.

Waiting is not passivityâ??it is dependency. It is saying, â??I will not move until You move. I will not act until You speak.â?•

The Blessing of Trusting in God

The opposite of the curse in Jeremiah 17 is the blessing in Jeremiah 17:7-8: â??Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters.â?•

- His roots go deep.
- He does not fear when heat comes.
- His leaf is green.
- He is not anxious in drought.
- He never ceases to bear fruit.

This is what God wants for you. Not self-confidence that crumbles, but God-confidence that endures.

Conclusion: The Day You Stop Trusting God

The devotional concludes: **â??The day a person stops trusting in God is the day his or her downfall begins.â?•**

Not the day they sin publicly. Not the day they fall openly. **The day they stop trusting.** The fall may come later, but the process starts when confidence shifts from God to self.

- Do not let your gifts become your god.
- Do not let your strength become your trust.
- Do not let your past victories make you careless.

Pray like you depend on Godâ??because you do. Watch like you are vulnerableâ??because you are. Trust like your life depends on itâ??because it does.

Pray this:
â??Father, forgive me for the times I have trusted in my own strength, my own wisdom, my own experience. I renounce the spirit of self-confidence that makes me sleep when I should pray. I acknowledge that without You, I can do nothing. My skills are not enough. My strength is not enough. My diligence is not enough. I wait on You. I trust in You. Be my arm, my strength, my support. In Jesusâ?? name, Amen.â?•

Action Steps:

- **Identify areas where you have been self-confident:** Where have you stopped praying because you think you have it handled? Write them down.
- **Practice dependency prayers:** Instead of â??I need to do this,â?• pray â??Lord, I cannot do this without You.â?• Build the habit of acknowledging your weakness.
- **Examine your prayer life:** Do you pray more when you are in trouble and less when things are going well? If so, you are treating prayer as an emergency tool, not a dependency lifeline.
- **Remember Peter:** When you feel like saying, â??I will never fall,â?• stop and say instead, â??Lord, keep me from falling.â?•
- **Wait before you act:** Before making any decision this week, pause and wait on God. Even if it feels unnecessary, build the rhythm of dependency. Your waiting is not wastedâ??it is worship.

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