

Open Heavens 11 May 2026 Today Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heavens 11 May 2026 devotional for today is **BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED**.

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 10 May 2026 Devotional**



OPEN HEAVENS 11 MAY 2026 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

MEMORISE

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
2 Timothy 3:12

READ: Matthew 5:10-12

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousnessâ?? sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

RCCG OPEN HEAVENS 11 MAY 2026 TODAY MESSAGE

All Christians will experience tribulations in the world (John 16:33), and being persecuted is one of the tribulations that every true believer must face.

It is true that persecution is naturally unpleasant; however, it is a thing of joy to know that Jesus promised in Matthew 5:10 that those who are persecuted for righteousnessâ?? sake are blessed and will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Todayâ??s memory verse says that every believer who chooses to live a godly life must experience some form of persecution, whether it is severe or mild. In whatever form it comes, persecution is naturally unpleasant. Therefore, to escape it, some believers compromise their faith and begin to conform to the world.

As a believer, your witness for Christ will not be effective if you compromise your faith at every hint of persecution. Christians who compromise their faith in the face of persecution miss the opportunity to become more effective witnesses for Christ.

Every time the apostles endured persecution, they were presented with a greater opportunity to witness Christ to others. In Acts 4:1-3, the religious leaders in Jerusalem ordered Peter and John to be thrown in jail until the next day and threatened them severely not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore.

After that incident, the apostles experienced Godâ??s power in a greater dimension and received more boldness to speak Godâ??s word (Acts 4:3133). When they were scattered abroad after Stephenâ??s death, they witnessed Christ everywhere they went, and the gospel spread mightily as a result (Acts 8:4).

Child of God, whether you are persecuted for not compromising your Christian values or outrightly punished for preaching the gospel, Godâ??s grace is sufficient to keep you from turning away from Him.

His strength will carry you through every difficult moment when you keep your focus on Him. If you are experiencing persecution for being a Christian, know that you are not alone. When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, He referred to Himself as Jesus, the One whom Paul was persecuting (Acts 9:4-5). This means that those who persecute you are also persecuting Jesus, and He is fully with you in your tribulations.

Beloved, donâ??t ever give up on your faith in the face of persecution; instead, draw strength from the One who promised that He will never leave you nor forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He is the ever-present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1), and He will be with you always, even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

KEY POINT

Blessed are those who endure persecution for righteousnessâ?? sake; they shall inherit the kingdom of God.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

2 Chronicles 12-16

Open Heavens HYMN 10: IN CHRIST ALONE

OPEN HEAVENS DEVOTIONAL 11 MAY 2026 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: 2 Timothy 3:12

â??Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.â?•

This verse is one of the most direct promises in Scripture about the cost of following Jesus. It does not say that some believers *might* suffer persecution. It does not say that persecution is possible only in certain countries or certain eras. It says **all** who choose to live godly lives in Christ Jesus **shall** suffer persecution. Persecution is not a sign that something has gone wrongâ??it is a sign that you are living right.

BIBLE READING: Matthew 5:10-12

â??Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousnessâ?? sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.â?•

This passage is part of Jesusâ?? Sermon on the Mount, often called the Beatitudes. Unlike the worldâ??s definition of blessingâ??wealth, comfort, popularityâ??Jesus pronounces blessing on those who suffer for righteousness. He does not say â??endure persecutionâ?• but â??rejoice and be exceeding glad.â?• Why? Because persecution connects you to the prophets and secures your reward in heaven. This passage teaches that **persecution is not a detour from the Christian life; it is part of the road.**

The Unpleasant Reality of Persecution

In todayâ??s devotional, **Pastor E.A. Adeboye** (Daddy Adeboye) continues his series on longevity and finishing well. He has covered hiding, fighting, running, refueling, rest, and avoiding the devilâ??s traps. Today he addresses an unavoidable reality: **persecution.** Every believer who chooses to live a godly life will face it. And how you respond to it determines whether you finish your race or fall by the

wayside.

The Temptation to Compromise

The devotional acknowledges that persecution is naturally unpleasant. Whether it is severeâ??imprisonment, beatings, deathâ??or mildâ??ridicule, exclusion, slanderâ??persecution hurts. No one enjoys being mocked, rejected, or attacked for their faith.

This is why some believers compromise. To escape the discomfort, they water down their message, hide their convictions, or conform to the world. They stop speaking up. They stop standing out. They blend in to avoid the heat.

But the devotional warns: â??Your witness for Christ will not be effective if you compromise your faith at every hint of persecution.â?•

A compromised Christian is a silent Christian. And a silent Christian is an ineffective witness. When you shrink back from persecution, you also shrink back from the opportunity to show the world what faith looks like under fire.

The Apostles: Persecution That Led to Power

The devotional points to the apostles as examples of what happens when believers do not compromise. In Acts 4, Peter and John were arrested, thrown in jail, and threatened severely not to preach in the name of Jesus anymore.

What was the result? Not silence, but boldness. Not retreat, but advance.

- They experienced Godâ??s power in a greater dimension.
- They received more boldness to speak Godâ??s word.
- The place where they prayed was shaken.
- Many who heard the word believed.

Persecution did not stop themâ??it propelled them.

Later, when Stephen was martyred, the church was scattered. The enemy intended this scattering to destroy the church. But Acts 8:4 says, **â??They that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.â?•** What the devil meant for evil, God used for good. The persecution that was supposed to silence the church actually spread the gospel.

You Are Not Alone in Persecution

One of the most comforting truths in the devotional is this: when you are persecuted for your faith, you are not alone.

When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, He did not say, â??Why are you persecuting My followers?â?• He said, **â??Why persecutest thou me?â?•** (Acts 9:4).

This means: When someone persecutes you for being a Christian, they are persecuting Jesus Himself. He identifies with His people so completely that your suffering is His suffering. He is not watching from a distanceâ??He is in the fire with you.

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the furnace, and a fourth Person walked with them.
- Daniel was thrown into the lionâ??s den, and God shut the lionsâ?? mouths.
- Paul and Silas were thrown into prison, and God sent an earthquake.

Jesus is fully with you in your tribulations.

The Blessing Hidden in Persecution

The memory verse from Matthew 5 says something counterintuitive: **â??Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousnessâ?? sake.â?•**

How can persecution be a blessing?

1. It Confirms You Are Living Right
If the world loves you, it means you are like the world. Jesus said, â??If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth youâ?• (John 15:19). Persecution is not a sign that something is wrongâ??it is a sign that something is right.

2. It Connects You to the Prophets
Jesus said, â??For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.â?• When you are persecuted, you join a long line of faithful witnessesâ??Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, John the Baptist, Stephen, Paul. You are in good company.

3. It Secures Your Reward in Heaven
â??Great is your reward in heaven.â?• The suffering is temporary. The reward is eternal. The heaviness lasts for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

4. It Produces Character and Hope
Romans 5:3-5 says that tribulation produces patience, patience produces experience, and experience produces hope. Persecution is not wastedâ??it is refining.

How to Respond to Persecution

If you are facing persecution for your faith, here is how to respond:

1. Do Not Compromise
The most important response is to refuse to compromise. Do not water down your message. Do not hide your convictions. Do not blend in to avoid the heat. Your witness is most powerful when it costs you something.

2. Rejoice
Jesus commanded: â??Rejoice, and be exceeding glad.â?• This is not natural. It is supernatural. You

rejoice not because persecution feels good, but because you know what it produces. You rejoice because your reward is in heaven. You rejoice because you are counted worthy to suffer for His name.

3. Draw Strength from Godâ??s Promises
Hebrews 13:5: â??I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.â?•
Psalm 46:1: â??God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.â?•
Matthew 28:20: â??Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.â?•

Hold these promises close. They are your anchor in the storm.

4. Keep Your Focus on Jesus
When you focus on the persecution, you sink. When you focus on Jesus, you walk on water. Keep your eyes on Him. He endured the cross, despised the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God. Follow His example.

5. See Persecution as an Opportunity
Every time the apostles were persecuted, they were presented with a greater opportunity to witness. Your persecution may open doors you could not open otherwise. Ask God to show you the opportunity hidden inside the opposition.

The Grace That Carries You

The devotional promises: â??Godâ??s grace is sufficient to keep you from turning away from Him. His strength will carry you through every difficult moment when you keep your focus on Him.â?•

You do not need to be strong enough for persecution. You need to be connected enough to the One who is strong enough. His grace is sufficient. His strength is made perfect in your weakness.

Conclusion: Do Not Give Up

Persecution is not pleasant. But it is part of the path for every believer who chooses to live godly lives. Do not give up. Do not compromise. Do not shrink back.

- Your witness is most powerful when it costs you something.
- Your faithfulness under fire inspires others.
- Your reward in heaven is great.
- Your Savior is with you in the fire.

He will never leave you. He will never forsake you. He is your ever-present help in trouble. And He will be with you always, even to the end of the world.

Pray this:
â??Father, I thank You that persecution is not a surprise to You. You promised that all who live godly lives will suffer persecution. Give me the grace not to compromise when the heat comes. Let my witness be bold, not silent. Let my faith shine brightest under pressure. I rejoice that my reward is in heaven. I draw strength from Your promise that You are with me always. In Jesusâ?? name, Amen.â?•

Action Steps:

- **Identify any area where you have compromised:** Have you softened your message, hidden your convictions, or blended in to avoid persecution? Confess it and recommit to boldness.
- **Encourage a persecuted believer:** Find someone who is suffering for their faithâ??whether in another country or across the streetâ??and send them a message of encouragement.
- **Memorize Matthew 5:10-12:** Write it down and keep it with you. Let it remind you that persecution is not a curseâ??it is a blessing.
- **Pray for boldness:** This week, ask God specifically for boldness to speak His word despite opposition.
- **Rejoice in advance:** Thank God for the opportunity to suffer for His nameâ??before it comes. Your attitude of gratitude will disarm the enemy.

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