



Open Heaven 28 April 2025 Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heaven 28 April 2025 devotional for today is AVOIDING STRIFE. The author of this daily devotion is Pastor E. A. Adeboye, General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

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OPEN HEAVEN 28 APRIL 2025 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: AVOIDING STRIFE

MEMORISE

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

James 3:16

READ: Genesis 13:1-18

And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.
2 And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.
3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;
4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had make there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the Lord.
5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.
6 And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly.

14 And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

18 Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 28 APRIL 2025 TODAY MESSAGE

Strife is dangerous; it damages relationships and destroys homes, especially when it is allowed to linger. When Abraham took his nephew, Lot, with him to the land God promised him, he didn't think that issues would arise between them. Lot enjoyed God's blessings because of Abraham, yet he wasn't wise enough to tell his herdsmen to honour and respect Abraham's herdsmen. Despite this, Abraham didn't get offended. Instead, he settled the issue with Lot amicably.

He called Lot and said, "Please, let there be no strife between us, for we are brethren." Abraham valued his relationship with God and his brotherhood with Lot above the issues they were having. He even humbled himself and asked Lot to choose where he wished to go first. Abraham understood something many people do not understand; he knew that whenever you allow strife, you give room to the devil.

During a Festival of Life event of RCCG in London, a Polish couple that had been waiting for the fruit of the womb shared the testimony of how God blessed them with a child. When the husband was sharing the testimony, because English is not his native language, he said, "Last year, I came from Poland to the ministers' conference because somebody told me that anybody the G.O. touches becomes pregnant."

My wife was sitting next to me, and she said jokingly, “Don’t touch me; I don’t want another pregnancy.” While we were able to laugh about what the man said because we understood his background, it could also have been misunderstood because of what touches in that context could imply. Indeed, there are more complex cases where misunderstandings can arise between two people because one or both of the parties are not taking account of the background of the other party as they relate with them.

Beloved, learn to consider people’s backgrounds when relating with them; this will help you to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings. There are people who, because of where they are from and the fact that I am old enough to be their parent or grandparent, when they come to see me, I expect them to prostrate. Whereas there are others who, because of where they are from, I do not expect them to prostrate; in fact, I will be surprised if they do. What is a greeting to some people may seem like an insult to you, and if you regard their greeting as an insult, you will develop unnecessary anger and strife, which will give room to satan.

KEY POINT:

Avoid strife like a plague; it is a doorway to the devil.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

1 Chronicles 1-2

HYMN 59: I WANT TO BE LIKE JESUS

OPEN HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL 28 APRIL 2025 COMMENTARY

1. The Danger of Strife

Daddy Adeboye begins by warning about the destructive nature of strife. Just as **Proverbs 17:14** says, “*The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts,*” unresolved conflict can damage relationships, families, and even spiritual progress.

- **Abraham and Lot’s Example (Genesis 13:1-18)**

- Lot, though blessed through Abraham, allowed his herdsmen to compete with Abraham’s, creating tension.
- Instead of reacting in pride or anger, Abraham took the initiative to resolve the issue peacefully.
- He prioritized unity over personal gain, saying, “*Let there be no strife between us, for we are brethren.*” (Genesis 13:8)

Lesson: Strife opens the door to the devil (Ephesians 4:26-27). Wisdom demands that we pursue peace, even if it means humbling ourselves.

2. The Power of Humility and Understanding

Abraham's response teaches us:

- **Humility prevents conflict.** He let Lot choose first, trusting God to provide for him (Genesis 13:9-10).
- **God honors peacemakers.** After Lot left, God reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 13:14-17).

Application:

- Are you holding onto a grudge?
- Is there a dispute in your home, workplace, or church that needs resolution?
- Follow Abraham's example—be the first to seek peace.

3. Misunderstandings and Cultural Sensitivity

Pastor Adeboye shares a humorous yet insightful testimony about a Polish couple who misunderstood a statement about pregnancy due to language barriers. This illustrates how:

- **Cultural and linguistic differences can lead to unnecessary strife.**
- **We must be patient and considerate in our interactions (Colossians 3:13).**

Example:

- Some cultures expect deep respect (like prostration), while others do not.
- If we judge others based on our own cultural expectations, we may take offense where none was intended.

Lesson:

- **Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (James 1:19).**
- Seek to understand before being understood.

4. How to Avoid Strife

1. **Be Proactive in Peacemaking** — Like Abraham, address conflicts early.
2. **Walk in Humility** — Pride fuels strife (Proverbs 13:10).
3. **Consider Others' Backgrounds** — Avoid assumptions; ask for clarity.
4. **Let Love Cover Offenses** — *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* (1 Peter 4:8)

Prayer:

“Father, make me a peacemaker. Help me to walk in humility, understanding, and love, so that I do not give place to the devil through strife. Let Your peace reign in my relationships, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Final Thought:

Strife is a tool of the enemy to divide families, churches, and nations. But **God calls us to unity (Psalm 133:1)**. Like Abraham, let us choose peace over conflict, understanding over assumption, and love over offense.

Scripture for Meditation:

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18, NKJV)

May this devotional inspire you to pursue peace and reject strife in all areas of life!

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