



Open Heaven 20 June 2025 Today Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heaven 20 June 2025 devotional for today is DON'T TRY TO STEAL FROM GOD.

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

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OPEN HEAVEN 20 JUNE 2025 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: DON'T TRY TO STEAL FROM GOD

MEMORISE:

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Isaiah 42:8

READ: Daniel 4:1-37

1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my God, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his

portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 20 JUNE 2025 TODAY MESSAGE

Years ago, when my Father in the Lord was alive, he sent a pastor to start a parish in Osogbo (a town in Western Nigeria). The parish began to prosper, and the pastor felt that since he planted it, he could turn it into his own ministry. He removed the signboard of The Redeemed Christian Church of God and put that of his new ministry.

When Papa heard about it, he appealed to the pastor to retrace his steps, but he refused. He said, “What do you mean? I am the pastor here. I started the work. The people are my sheep.” Papa said,

“But we ordained you, and sent you here to start the work in the name of The Redeemed Christian Church of God. More so, you are not their saviour. The church belongs to the One who saved them. It is not yours or mine.”

However, the pastor stubbornly insisted. Then, Papa said, “No problem, shall we pray?” As they prayed, a wind blew as if it was going to rain, and by the following morning, the pastor was covered in leprosy from head to toe.

When the King of kings owns something, don’t take it as yours. When you do, you are toying with fire. The pastor in the story I shared above thought he could take what belonged to God and go scot-free.

When someone has exclusive rights to something, no other person can claim ownership of that thing. God has exclusive rights to the earth, its fullness and all its inhabitants (Psalm 24:1). This means that He is in charge of the earth and oversees all that happens in it.

In Luke 12:16-20, when the man that Jesus called the rich fool talked about his soul as if he owned it, he lost his life that same night.

Just as God doesn’t share His ownership of the earth, He doesn’t share His glory. His glory belongs to Him, and anyone who tries to steal it from Him will get into big trouble.

When God does anything through you, be quick to return all the glory to Him because it does not belong to you. In today’s Bible reading,

Nebuchadnezzar attempted to attribute God’s glory to himself, and he became a beast in the forest for seven years. God touched his heart and replaced it with a beast’s heart, and all his boasting stopped.

Beloved, God is jealous about what belongs to Him.

REFLECTION:

Have you been taking God’s glory to yourself?

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Psalms 81-88

HYMN 34: YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

OPEN HEAVEN DEVOTIONAL 20 JUNE 2025 COMMENTARY

The Sacredness of Divine Ownership

This devotional presents a sobering truth about **divine ownership and the consequences of appropriating God's glory**. Through a powerful testimony and biblical examples, we're reminded that **all ministry success, spiritual gifts, and earthly blessings ultimately belong to God**. The message warns against the subtle temptation to claim as personal achievement what God has accomplished through us.

1. The Testimony of Stolen Ministry

A. The Osogbo Pastor's Mistake

1. The Scenario:

- Pastor sent to plant a church in Osogbo
- Church prospered under his leadership
- Made the fatal error of claiming ownership

2. The Transgression:

- Removed RCCG signboard
- Declared: "I am the pastor here! The people are my sheep"
- Rejected correction from spiritual authority

3. The Consequences:

- Immediate divine judgment (leprosy overnight)
- Served as a warning to all ministers

B. Key Lessons from the Incident

1. Ministry Belongs to Christ

- "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18)
- We are merely stewards (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

2. Authority Structures Matter

- Rejecting spiritual covering invites danger
- Hebrews 13:17 principle of submission

3. God Jealously Guards His Glory

- The leprosy judgment mirrored:
 - Miriam's punishment (Numbers 12:10)
 - Uzziah's affliction (2 Chronicles 26:19)

2. Biblical Examples of Misappropriated Glory

A. Nebuchadnezzar's Fall (Daniel 4)

1. The Boast:

- "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built by the might of my power?" (v.30)

2. The Judgment:

- Lost his mind for 7 years
- Lived like a beast
- Hair like eagles' feathers, nails like birds' claws

3. The Restoration:

- Came only after acknowledging God's sovereignty (v.34-37)

B. Herod's Fatal Acceptance of Worship (Acts 12:21-23)

- Failed to give God glory
- Struck by an angel and eaten by worms

C. The Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-20)

- Claimed ownership of his soul
 - Lost his life that very night
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3. The Theology of Divine Ownership

A. What Belongs Exclusively to God?

1. All Creation (Psalm 24:1)

- "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof"

2. Human Lives (Ezekiel 18:4)

- "All souls are mine"

3. Ministry Success (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

- "Neither is he that planteth anything but God that giveth the increase"

4. Spiritual Gifts (James 1:17)

- "Every good gift cometh from the Father"

B. Why God Guards His Glory So Jealously

1. For Our Protection

- Pride precedes destruction (Proverbs 16:18)

2. For Authentic Worship

- He alone is worthy (Revelation 4:11)

3. For Kingdom Integrity

- Prevents personality cults in ministry
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4. Practical Ways to Guard Against Glory Theft

A. In Ministry

1. **Always Point to Christ**
 - John the Baptist's model: "He must increase, I must decrease" (John 3:30)
2. **Maintain Accountability Structures**
 - Reject lone ranger mentality
3. **Regularly Examine Motives**
 - "Search me, O God" (Psalm 139:23-24)

B. In Daily Life

1. **Receive Compliments with Humility**
 - "To God be the glory" response
2. **Journal God's Interventions**
 - Creates a record of divine faithfulness
3. **Practice Secret Giving**
 - Matthew 6:1-4 principle

C. When Tempted to Boast

1. **Remember Your Former State**
 - "Such were some of you" (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 2. **Acknowledge God's Grace**
 - "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10)
 3. **Recall Judgment Examples**
 - Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, etc.
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Prayer for Right Perspective

"Merciful Father, deliver me from the subtle pride that claims Your works as mine. Keep me ever mindful that I am but an unworthy servant (Luke 17:10). Where I've taken credit for Your deeds, forgive me. Where I've sought glory for myself, cleanse me. Let my life always point others to You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

Conclusion: The Blessedness of Giving God His Due

1. **Safety in Humility**
 - God resists the proud but gives grace to humble (James 4:6)
2. **Joy in Right Worship**

- True fulfillment comes in glorifying God

3. **Eternal Rewards**

- Those who humble themselves will be exalted (Matthew 23:12)

Final Warning:

That ministry, business, talent, or achievement youâ??re tempted to claim? Itâ??s borrowed capital. Handle with reverence â?? itâ??s stamped â??Property of the King of kings.â?•

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