

Open Heavens 8 January 2026 Today Devotional & Commentary

Description

The Open Heavens 8 January 2026 devotional for today is **DONâ??T ENSNARE YOURSELF.**

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

- **Read:** **RCCG Open Heaven 7 January 2026 Devotional**



OPEN HEAVENS 8 JANUARY 2026 TODAY DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: DONâ??T ENSNARE YOURSELF

MEMORISE:
Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
Proverbs 18:21

READ: 2 Samuel 1:1-16
1 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had abode two days in Ziklag;
2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.
3 And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped.
4 And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.
5 And David said unto the young man that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son

be dead?

6 And the young man that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.
7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I.
8 And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite.
9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.
10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:
12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.
13 And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.
14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lordâ??s anointed?
15 And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.
16 And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the Lordâ??s anointed.

RCCG OPEN HEAVENS 8 JANUARY 2026 TODAY MESSAGE

In Nigeria, there is a common saying that everyone has the freedom of speech, but freedom after speech is not guaranteed. As funny as this statement sounds, it is very true in the spirit realm. Proverbs 6:2 says:

â??Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.â?•

God doesnâ??t stop you from speaking, but you must be careful so that the things you say do not bring you into bondage.

Sometime ago, a woman who had been looking for the fruit of the womb for many years told God in her desperation, â??Lord, just let me get pregnant once, then you can take my life on the day of delivery. I just want this reproach to be over.â?•

When it was time to deliver, she came to RCCGâ??s maternity clinic. For days, this woman remained in labour. Her condition was so bad that they had to call me to pray for her. After asking her some questions, we discovered what she had said earlier, and I said to myself, â??If this woman wanted to die, why then did she choose to come here?â?•

Apparently, she did not want to die anymore. We cried to God for mercy, and He answered. She delivered safely and went home with her baby in good health. Imagine if there was no man of God

available to cancel the pronouncement she had made on herself in her desperation; she could have died.

Todayâ??s Bible reading tells us the story of a young man who was destroyed by his words. After Saulâ??s death, this man, who was an Amalekite, ran to David to tell him that he had killed Saul, even though he was not the one who killed him (1 Samuel 31:l-6). He thought telling David that he had killed Saul would grant him favour before David, but the opposite was the case, and his words became his death sentence.

When David heard him say that he had killed Saul, the anointed king of Godâ??s people, he commanded one of the young men with him to execute him.

Beloved, be mindful of the words you speak, especially when you are highly emotional. Do not allow your emotions, whether excitement, happiness, anger, sadness, or frustration, to push you to say things that can put you in bondage and hurt your destiny. I pray that you will always speak with wisdom and grace. May your words never bring you into bondage, in Jesusâ?? name.

KEY POINT

Your words can put you in trouble. Be mindful of what you say.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Genesis 26-28

HYMN 33: GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH!

OPEN HEAVENS DEVOTIONAL 8 JANUARY 2026 COMMENTARY

MEMORISE: Proverbs 18:21
â??Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.â?•
This scripture reveals the creative and destructive authority delegated to human speech. Words are not merely sounds; they are spiritual containers that release either life-force or death-force into your environment and future. You are destined to consume, as a harvest, the fruit of the seeds your words have sown.

BIBLE READING: 2 Samuel 1:1-16
This passage is a sobering case study of the power of words. An Amalekite, seeking reward,

imprudently boasts of killing the Lordâ??s anointedâ??a claim that was both a lie and a spiritual transgression. His own testimony, spoken to gain favour, becomes the legal evidence for his execution. He literally ate the death-fruit of his tongue.

The Bondage of Unbridled Speech

Daddy Adeboye issues a critical warning about the spiritual law of words. While God gives freedom of speech, He does not suspend the spiritual consequences that follow. The devotional emphasizes that our words, especially those spoken under intense emotion, can create spiritual bonds or legal grounds that directly impact our destiny, for good or for ill.

1. Words as Spiritual Snares and Legal Testimonies

You Are Snared by Your Words:
Proverbs 6:2 uses the imagery of a hunterâ??s trap. Reckless words are not just spoken into the air; they can loop back and ensnare the speaker, restricting their freedom and limiting their future. The woman with the word of death over her delivery and the Amalekite with his false testimony both found themselves trapped by their own declarations.

Emotions are a Poor Counselor:
Desperation, anger, excitement, or fear can temporarily hijack your spiritual discernment, leading to declarations that oppose Godâ??s will for your life. Daddy Adeboye warns that the heat of emotion is the most dangerous time to make pronouncements about your future, your relationships, or your identity.

2. Two Cautionary Tales: The Power of Pronouncements

The Desperate Vow (Self-Inflicted Bondage):
The womanâ??s story illustrates how a desperate vow, though prayed to God, can set a destructive spiritual process in motion. She attempted to barter with God, not understanding that her words had creative power. Her pronouncement nearly overrode Godâ??s merciful nature for her life, requiring urgent prophetic intervention to cancel its effect.

The Presumptuous Boast (Other-Inflicted Judgment):
The Amalekiteâ??s story shows words used to manipulate for personal gain. He crafted a narrative he thought would please David, unaware of the spiritual principle: â??Touch not mine anointedâ?• (Psalm 105:15). His lie about killing the Lordâ??s anointed invoked automatic judgment. His mouth delivered the testimony that sentenced him.

3. The Ministry of Reversal and the Need for Wisdom

The Role of Spiritual Authority:
The womanâ??s life was saved because a â??man of Godâ?• (a recognized spiritual authority operating in the wisdom and power of Christ) could discern the root cause and intercede to cancel the negative pronouncement. This highlights the importance of being under godly covering and seeking counsel before making weighty vows.

Speaking with Wisdom and Grace:
Wisdom considers the long-term harvest of words. Grace seasons speech with the nature of Christ. The antidote to destructive speech is to pause, submit emotional impulses to the Holy Spirit, and ask: â??Do these words align with life, with Scripture, and with Godâ??s promise for me?â?•

How to Harness the Life-Power of Your Tongue

Implement a Speech Fast:
Periodically commit to being slow to speak (James 1:19). Use pauses to filter emotional reactions through the grid of Scripture before they become words.

Scripturalize Your Vocabulary:
Deliberately replace faithless, fearful, or angry declarations with the direct promises of God. If you feel desperate, speak Psalm 118:17 instead of a death vow. If you are angry, declare Psalm 4:4.

Cancel Past Negative Declarations:
In prayer, revisit and repent of any rash vows, curses, or negative prophecies you have spoken over yourself, your family, or your future. Revoke them in the name of Jesus and declare Godâ??s word over those areas.

Warning: Freedom of Speech is Not Freedom from Consequences

The Nigerian saying in the devotional is a profound earthly shadow of a spiritual law. You are free to say anything, but you are not free from the spiritual, and sometimes natural, consequences that those words set in motion. Your tongue is the rudder of your lifeâ??s ship (James 3:4-5).

Conclusion: Pray for a Guarded and Life-Giving Tongue

Pray this:
â??Holy Spirit, You who are the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom, take control of my tongue. Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord (Psalm 141:3). Let no word of death, despair, or rash vow proceed from my lips. Let my speech be always seasoned with grace and full of the life of Your Word. I cancel every negative pronouncement I have ever made over my destiny. I declare that my tongue is an instrument of life, blessing, and righteousness, in Jesusâ?? name!â?•

Action Steps:

1. **The 3-Second Rule:** When emotionally charged, institute a mandatory 3-second silence before responding. Use that moment to whisper, â??Holy Spirit, guide my words.â?•
2. **Conduct a Word Audit:** At the end of each day, review key conversations. Repent for any words that sown strife, fear, or death. Thank God for words that brought life and grace.
3. **Daily Declaration Card:** Write out 3-5 life-giving scriptures about your identity in Christ and Godâ??s promises for you. Speak them aloud over yourself every morning.
4. **Seek Counsel for Weighty Vows:** Before making any major vow or declaration (e.g., â??Iâ??ll neverâ?¦â?•, â??God, if Youâ?¦ then Iâ?¦â?•), run it by a mature, spiritually-sound mentor or pastor.

Remember: Your tongue is your most powerful creative tool. You will eat its fruitâ??whether a harvest of life or death. Choose today to love life and speak it.
â??Death and life are in the power of the tongueâ?¦â?• (Proverbs 18:21). Speak life.

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