

FaithPrayers

It is our privilege to pray for you

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

We need a Savior...

All around us we hear of dismay and confusion: riots in European cities, stock markets plunging around the world, individuals in distress both financially and personally. Yet, in the midst of the chaos, God's light shines bright and clear, if we will but look for it. We must rise above the cultural dilemmas of the day. Our task now is to be as full of integrity as we can, to help those around us, and to pray.

Prayer is not passive. According to the Bible, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). One of the most unfortunate charades of our day is that prayer has been relegated to a sort of "comfort" category. People say "I'll pray for you" in the same way that they say "I hope it all works out" or "I'll

be thinking of you and wishing you well." Prayer to the Sovereign God is so much more. We rely on His power and His leading. He is our Rock of Ages.

The ages of history have come down to us. This is not to say that ours is the most important age (as some think) or that our time in history pales and is insignificant (as others think). The true fact is this: the ages of history have come down to us. Now is our time. What will we pass on? What will we do? How will we manage? One huge answer is: pray for guidance and good decisions! Pray for power and resilience. Pray for the strength to stay close to your Lord. Pray for those around you. Pray for the world. Pray for your town. Pray for your family. Pray for your friends. Pray, pray, pray!

Another charade of our day is that prayer and action are somehow at odds with each other. That is actually not in the Bible. Quite the contrary. Prayer can direct you which appropriate action to take. Prayer can lead you to know the actions that matter. Prayer can even bring to your mind that there are actions to take at all. It was after prayer that Jesus did some of his greatest miracles. It was after prayer that he fed 5,000 people. Don't make the mistake of relegating prayer to some passive place. That is straight out of our current culture.

Prayer is active, as is any vibrant conversation where change occurs. In prayer we come into contact with God's outpouring of power.

May God bless you ... and empower you to pray now!

~ Mary Ann Offenstein

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge."

~ 2 Samuel 22:2

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

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In Times Like These

by Ruth Caye Jones

In times like these you need a Savior
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus. Yes, He's the one;
This Rock is Jesus, the only one.
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these, O' be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

In times like these I have a Savior,
In times like these I have an anchor;
I'm very sure, I'm very sure
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, yes He's the one;
This Rock is Jesus, the only one.
Be very sure, be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

Ruth Caye Jones wrote "In Times Like These" at the height of World War II. It came to her as she was in the middle of housework, and she stopped and grabbed a pen and began to write, both music and words. Later, when she watched George Beverly Shea sing her song on a Billy Graham telecast, tears came to her eyes and she said, "I can't believe I had any part in writing this song. I just feel that God gave it to me, and I gave it to the world."

If you have never heard Mahalia Jackson sing "In Times Like These", look it up on the internet! It's so inspiring when she sings "Be sure your anchor holds. We know that rock is Jesus!"

Many blessings to you and to yours.

■ Have a prayer request? Want more information? We can always be contacted on our 24 hour a day, 7 day a week toll-free prayer line.

1-866-515-9406

We also can be reached via the internet at:

www.faithprayers.org

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