

“God Help Us In These Uncertain Times”

Calling on God

Wednesday 08 September 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Personal Comment

During the past twenty months a great deal has been said and written about “these uncertain times.” The comments about the difficulty of the times seem nearly endless. I have been called upon to address our times and how our faith helps us stand strong during them. My difficulty in doing this lies in my personal understanding of our current times. The fact is, they seem no more stressful or difficult to me than many other times. For me, things are no more uncertain than many periods in the past. But now, I will attempt to put my perceptions aside and address how things seem to many of those around me.

Background

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.” *Philippians 4:6 NLT*

Certainly 2020 and 2021 have been challenging times for many people and our level of stress has increased. In times of difficulty, we naturally call on God for guidance and for comfort. God takes on the role of loving parent or faithful friend. God will listen to our sorrows and our pleas as we pray. And we must pray. God will answer us. The answers may be comforting, but they may not always be what we like to hear. God may say, “I hear your concern about what seems to be the

uncertainty of life at the moment. Be encouraged. I am always with you. Life is never certain, but I am. Consider the people around you who are dealing with much more than uncertainty and stress. Consider the ones who are dealing with imminent death, or loss of someone they deeply love. Consider those who are dealing with serious physical or mental losses. Think about those who have experienced major financial losses or the loss of their home, their country, their family. Bring your stresses and uncertainties to me, certainly. I will always be with you, even to the end of the age. And you, also care for your sisters and brothers who have lost so much.”

It is so important during these times of increased stress and isolation that we care for each other as God cares for us.

Questions to Consider

1. *Philippians 4:6* advises us not to worry about anything. Why is that so difficult to do? Have you been able to put worry aside? If so, how?
2. *Philippians 4:6* also tell us to pray about everything. Has your prayer life grown during the past two years? In what ways? What can you recommend to the rest of us to improve our prayer life?
3. What does the phrase “these uncertain times” mean for you?
4. Do you feel stressed, anxious, or uncertain right now? Can you explain why, if you do? Can you explain why not, if you do not?
5. What helps you achieve peace?
6. A number of human situations listed above go beyond a sense of uncertainty or stress. How can we express compassion for these people?
7. What is the answer to these uncertain times? (Clue: the difference between an answer and a path/way)

Closing Prayer