

ROCK OF AGES

PRECEPT

Isaiah 26:4

⁴Trust in Adonai forever, for the LORD Adonai is a Rock of ages.

PROMISE

There are two types of changes that occur in our lives: the first is predictable. We know it's coming and will happen sooner or later. There are transitions and changes in our season that we are fully aware of, but the question is: are we preparing, or cramming? Preparation is vital. It means it's necessary for success. Don't cram for a transition you already know is coming.

James 4:17 says, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." This means that knowing what we should do and not doing it is a sin. Laziness, spiritual slumber, and procrastination can keep us from fulfilling our responsibilities and recognizing opportunities.

Proverbs 27:1 tells us, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." It warns us not to boast about tomorrow because we don't know what it will bring. Tomorrow isn't guaranteed; don't be so sure that you still have time.

When predictable changes are coming, prepare diligently and prudently. Don't let laziness, slumber, or procrastination steal your preparation season, but simultaneously remember that rest isn't laziness when you do it after finishing your priorities. It's the season God is preparing you because you're too busy.

The second type of change is unpredictable change. These changes are harder because we want certainty, plans, and control. When life suddenly takes an unexpected turn, fear and frustration can easily take over. The truth is, unpredictable change is inevitable. We can't control everything or always know what's coming, but we can control how we respond. When change is predictable, prepare. When change is unpredictable, trust.

Trusting God gives us peace. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." Unexpected change can give us sleepless nights because we become overwhelmed by what we cannot control. But when we choose to trust God, He gives us peace in the midst of uncertainty and keeps our minds steadfast.

Trusting God gives us strength. Isaiah 40:31 tells us, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Any kind of life change can be exhausting. Change can drain us emotionally, mentally, and even spiritually. But when we continue to place our trust and hope in God, He renews our strength.

Trusting God gives us stability. Psalm 125:1 notes, "Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever." Adversities in our lives can shake our well-being. It can make our emotional health and mental health unstable, but if we put our trust in God we will not be shaken.

Rock of Ages means he is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. When you know what's coming, prepare. When you don't know what's coming, trust. When everything around you is changing, rely on the rock because everything may change, but the rock remains.

PRACTICE

1. **Rock.** What does "When change is predictable, prepare; when change is unpredictable, trust" mean to you?
2. **Personal Reflection.** What are some areas of your life where God may be asking you to trust Him instead of trying to have all the answers? And how can we pray for you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them & may they not grow weary in well-doing.

II. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love & grace as we obey in making disciples.

III. Members

- Pray for our community to grow in relationship with God.

IV. Trust

- When we face uncertainty, may we be reminded of His love and faithfulness.

V. Unreached

- Pray that the light of Christ may shine into the darkness of the lives of everyone.

VI. Community

- Pray for safety and may His presence & love be felt in our communities.

VII. Service

- Pray that we may serve God faithfully.