

Romans 10:1-4 (NKJV) 1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

I would really consider Paul's statement in Romans 10:1 a comprehensive statement that reveals the number one way we align with God's heart and his ultimate plan for Israel. It is that they would be saved! They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge They are ignorant of God's righteousness, and have sought to establish their own righteousness, ultimately rejecting the righteousness of God found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Paul's previous explanation of salvation by faith apart from works. This is the stumbling block and a rock of offense to them.

Romans 4:1-8 1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God **imputes righteousness** apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

The word impute means to credit. It's a free gift. If you embrace the promise and the gospel that Jesus Christ died for your sins, His righteousness is imputed to you; that is, you are treated by God as if His righteousness were yours. **Jesus righteousness is put to your credit.** This comes by faith, trust, relying on the promise and faithfulness of God. This means you are saved and will go to heaven and not to hell when you die. You have been justified by his blood and saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:9).

Romans 10:6-13 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) ⁷ or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word (rhema) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word (rhema) of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to

shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

- Paul quotes the Old Testament 11 times in the 21 verses of Romans 10. These passages provide the biblical framework for understanding Israel’s response to the gospel and demonstrate that they had been given ample revelation and opportunity to believe, leaving them without excuse.
- **Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 30:12 -14 and proclaims Christ as the fulfillment of this passage. Deuteronomy 30:11-14 (NKJV)** 11 “For this commandment which I command you today [is] not [too] mysterious for you, nor [is] it far off. 12 “It [is] not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 “Nor [is] it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 “But the word [is] very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.
- **The resurrection of Christ is the divine answer to the question of how to pursue God and how to be righteous. Stop trying to earn your way, man cannot ascend to the heights or descend to the Lowest place to accomplish this work. Faith let’s go of our works in order to fully embrace Christ and His finished work.**

He also quotes from Joel revealing that this was written long ago and in Christ is the fulfillment. Joel 2:32a (NKJV) And it shall come to pass [That] whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9

- Calling Jesus “**Lord**” is a declaration that He is God. For the Jewish people, “**Lord**” referred to **Yahweh**, the God of Israel. So when Jesus is confessed as Lord, it is a confession of His deity.
- When we **confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord**, we acknowledge the One who perfectly fulfilled the law. When we **believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead**, we trust in His finished work and resurrection.

This fulfills God’s desire that His truth be in our mouth and heart. We are not saved by keeping the law ourselves, but by trusting in the One who kept it perfectly for us.

Confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection are the response God asks of us, and through faith in Christ we are saved. Our salvation rests entirely on Jesus' perfection and His complete fulfillment of the law.

Romans 10:12-13 (NKJV) 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

In the rest of the chapter verses 14 through 21 Paul continues his argument by establishing the justice of God toward Israel. Romans 10:17-18 (NKJV) 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."

- His position is Israel already knew the promise of the Lord through the prophets (they have heard) but have failed to embrace.
- **Therefore, the rejection of the plan of God was not God's fault, for He clearly told of his strategy through the prophets to save sinners by faith through the Messiah.** Paul places the fullness of the blame at the feet of Israel.
- To Paul, the clear proclamation of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial work is found in the prophets
- even greater than the prophets, Jesus himself gave adequate opportunity for Israel to call upon the name of the Lord and to believe in Him, so the word had already gone forth to Israel.

The problem has not been the proclamation of the gospel. The problem has been the lack of obedience to the gospel. Possession of the word of God does not equal obedience to the word of God, faith has not been embraced and obeyed, even though Israel possessed it.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

II. Growing in Faith

We grow in faith by knowing and being rooted in the Word of God. The same way you came to faith is the same way you will continue to grow in faith—through hearing, believing, and trusting the Word of God.

⁸ But what does it say? “The word (rhema) is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word (rhema) of faith which we preach):

the ‘word’ is rhema a spoken word. By Faith we speak out of our mouths the written word of God.

- Romans 10:9 (NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Romans 10:10 (NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Every time you speak in faith, in agreement with His word it creates strength in your inner being by renewing your mind and spiritual vision.

- *The power is in the word of God and when we step into full agreement with His eternal word we are impacted by its power. **Faith comes!!***
- Positive confession of God’s truth is essential in shaping God’s image inside you.
Confession/renouncing/repentance of sin opens you up for Holy Spirit to exchange what does not belong for what does as a child of God with a full inheritance. This is how we learn to use the sword!

Over time, as the Word of God shapes you, the image He has of you will become increasingly clear. His Word will transform the way you see yourself until you begin to see yourself as He sees you—and to live from that identity.

God is speaking a higher Word and greater Truth than your current circumstance.

James 1:21 (NKJV) Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

When the word becomes engrafted (implanted) into you it infuses His life into you!

***Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The renewed mind that we are meant to be transformed by is the mind of Christ which is an incredible truth (1 Cor. 2:16)

Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

We must **Learn to appropriate God's truth as the blueprint in which you see yourself by making His word the vocabulary you speak.** We want to live in the perfect will of God.

It takes time for faith to mature. We must consistently water and fertilize the seed of faith until it gets to a place of maturity. **As you are growing in faith, you may come under condemnation because you are not living in the fullness of God's image of you! Continue in God's word and power until you get to the level of faith needed to come over circumstances and walk in the authority Jesus Christ gives to His children.** **Don't accept your current level of faith commit to growing.**

God's word is creative power. He speaks things into existence. When we speak His word it can change our world and transform how we see and experience our current circumstance. If your sick, if you are afraid, your in pain, your full of doubt stop coming into agreement with the current assignment that is against you and begin speaking the truth of God's Word (His perfect vision) over your situation until you see your situation transformed by His power.

- *Many may have told you that you have no hope in a specific area, that you have something that's terminal that this has been in your family line for a hundred years. Those are lies because that is not how God has written your story line, it is not what is written in the word of God and it is not the will of God.*
- **The enemy would love you to believe that your current situation is just part of God's plan for your life when the very thing you are going through may be in direct opposition to the plan God has for your life.**
- *The problem is we have taken the lies of the enemy and the words of man as if held more substance then the word of God. We have believed that our situation was the final word, when it was the enemies plan to test God's word.* Take what God says and repeat that, meditate on that, speak that, come into agreement with His truth. Speak the rhema of faith.

You return the word back to God! Speak it over yourself and your situation. This prayer is not for others to hear, it is for your soul to hear.