We can be tired, weary and emotionally distraught, but after spending time alone with God, we find that He injects into our bodies energy, power, and strength.
Charles Stanley

ROMANS CHAPTER TEN
Prayer Study #450
First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA

Romans 10 - Amplified Bible (AMP)

Israel Rejects Christ

10 *Brethren, [with all] my heart's desire and goodwill for [Israel], I long and pray to God that they may be saved.*
2 *I bear them witness that they have a [certain] zeal and enthusiasm for God, but it is not enlightened and according to [correct and vital] knowledge.*
3 *For being ignorant of the righteousness that God ascribes [which makes one acceptable to Him in word, thought, and deed] and seeking to establish a righteousness (a means of salvation) of their own, they did not obey or submit themselves to God's righteousness.*
4 *For Christ is the end of the Law [the limit at which it ceases to be, for the Law leads up to Him Who is the fulfillment of its types, and in Him the purpose which it was designed to accomplish is fulfilled. That is, the purpose of the Law is fulfilled in Him] as the means of righteousness (right relationship to God) for everyone who trusts in and adheres to and relies on Him.*
5 *For Moses writes that the man who [can] practice the righteousness (perfect conformity to God's will) which is based on the Law [with all its intricate demands] shall live by it.*
6 *But the righteousness based on faith [imputed by God and bringing right relationship with Him] says, Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into Heaven? that is, to bring Christ down;*
7 *Or who will descend into the abyss? that is, to bring Christ up from the dead [as if we could be saved by our own efforts].*
8 *But what does it say? The Word (God's message in Christ) is near you, on your lips and in your heart; that is, the Word (the message, the basis and object) of faith which we preach,*
9 *Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
10 *For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.*

11 *The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed.*
12 *[No one] for there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. The same Lord is Lord over all [of us] and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him [in faith].*
13 *For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord [invoking Him as Lord] will be saved.*
14 *But how are people to call upon Him Whom they have not believed [in Whom they have no faith, on Whom they have no reliance]? And how are they to believe in Him [adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him] of Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?*
15 *And how can men [be expected to] preach unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings! [How welcome is the coming of those who preach the good news of His good things!]*

All of Romans 9-11 is a condemnation of the Jewish attitude towards religion. Yet the tone is not one of condemnation but of love. Paul's desire and prayer for Israel is that they might be saved. He knows that there is only one way for both Gentiles and Jews to be saved, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

The Jews had a zeal for God. But it is possible to be zealous for God but not according to knowledge. Thus that zealousness is useless and misdirected and often leads to the formation of cults, such as the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons.

The Jews were willfully ignorant of the law of righteousness (Romans 3:22-30). They tried to establish their own righteousness by works of the law or self-effort, and they were not submitted to Jesus Christ, Jehovah Tsidkenu, *the Lord our righteousness.*

The end of the law of righteousness is Christ. Paul wrote to the Galatians in Galatians 3:24: *The law was the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ.* The law is doing and then living and is based on works. The Gospel is living and then doing and is based on faith. The law could not bring life because of the law of sin in the flesh, which produces death. A man dead in trespasses and sins needs life to enable him to do righteousness. The law does not produce this life, but the Gospel does, through Jesus Christ, who conquered death and grave.

In verses 6 and 7 Paul quotes Moses (Deuteronomy 30:11-14). Paul is saying that no man can ascend into heaven to bring Christ down to man, and no man can descend into the abyss to bring Christ up from the dead because He has already risen from the grave and hades by the resurrection.

Matthew 10:34 and other scriptures tell us, *"…out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."* The heart and mouth are closely connected. In verse 8 the word in our mouth and heart should be the Word of God or of the Gospel and of faith.

Verses 9 and 10 gives us the way to be saved: Confess with our mouth (and from

the heart) really meaning it, that the resurrected Jesus Christ is Lord. The heart believes unto righteousness, and the mouth confesses unto salvation.

Verses 11-13 tell us that *whosoever will, may come.* The same plan of salvation is for the Jew and the Gentile. The same Lord saves all who believe on Him. We must call on and believe in Him to be saved.

Verses 14 and 15 ask four questions:

a. How shall they call on Him in whom they have never believed?
b. How shall they believe in Him on whom they have never heard?
c. How shall they hear without a preacher?
d. How shall they preach except they be sent?

Israel Rejects the Prophets

16 *But they have not all heeded the Gospel; for Isaiah says, Lord, who has believed (had faith in) what he has heard from us?*
17 *So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ (the Messiah Himself).*
18 *But I ask, Have they not heard? Indeed they have; [for the Scripture says] Their voice [that of nature bearing God's message] has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the far bounds of the world.*
19 *Again I ask, Did Israel not understand? [Did the Jews have no warning that the Gospel was to go forth to the Gentiles, to all the earth?] First, there is Moses who says, I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.*
20 *Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, I have been found by those who did not seek Me; I have shown (revealed) Myself to those who did not [consciously] ask for Me.*
21 *But of Israel he says, All day long I have stretched out My hands to a people unyielding and disobedient and self-willed [to a faultfinding, contrary, and contradicting people].*

Unfortunately, not all have believed and obeyed the Gospel. In Paul's day, only the remnant or seed heard and believed God's report. Verse 17 gives the foundational verse that leads people to believe by faith in Jesus. They must hear the Word of God. When we are saved, we are saved by faith in the Gospel message and are given a measure of faith. Those justified, *just as if they had never sinned*, live by faith. The Biblical declaration is "*The just shall live by faith"* (Hab. 2:1-5, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:10-11, Hebrews 10:38).

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 tells us: *Now faith is the substance* [the title deed] *of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Just like a title deed is evidence of your ownership of real estate, so your faith is evidence of your eternal estate in God.

Why is faith important? Ephesians 6:16: *Above all, taking the shield of faith,*

wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. The Christian life is one of warfare, a constant spiritual conflict. You need the defensive shield of faith to keep from being hit by the darts of the enemy. Besides, you cannot be saved without faith (John 3:36); you cannot live victoriously over the world without faith (John 5:4); you cannot please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6); you cannot pray without faith (James 1:6); you cannot have peace with God without faith (Romans 5:1); you cannot have joy without faith (1st Peter 1:8); you are justified by faith and not by works (Galatians 2:16); you are to live by faith (Galatians 2:20); you are made righteous by faith (Romans 10:1-4); Christ dwells in your heart by faith (Ephesians 3:17); the Holy Spirit is received by faith (Galatians 3:2); and *Whatsoever is not of faith is sin* (Romans 14:23).

Israel had its own prophetic scripture and that should have created faith for the coming Messiah. Besides, Moses and Isaiah (in Deuteronomy 32:21, Romans 11:11; 1st Corinthians 10:22) had prophesied the conversion and the coming in of the Gentiles. This coming in of the Gentiles was to provoke the Jews to jealousy and anger (Acts 13:46-48; 17:1-15; 1st Thessalonians 2:13-16). The Jews knew that they were the chosen ones and thought of the Gentiles as not a people but foolish nations. The Jews themselves were responsible for rejecting the Messiah, although God knew and foretold that they would do so. Isaiah foretold in Isaiah 65:1-2 that the Gentiles found Christ, even though they were not looking for Him. The Jews were looking for Him but rejected Him when He came.