

# Discussion Guide

Romans 10:5-8

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## Opening Prayer

**Guided Prayer:** Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

## Recap

### **Summary of Romans 10:5-8**

In Romans 10:5-8, Paul articulates the distinction between the righteousness that comes from following the law and the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. Paul cites Leviticus to illustrate the impossibility of attaining righteousness through the law, given its demand for perfect adherence. Conversely, Paul describes the righteousness based on faith as inherently accessible, quoting Deuteronomy to emphasize that this righteousness is not distant or unattainable but is as close as one's own heart and mouth. This passage highlights the core message of the Gospel: salvation is readily available to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

## Understanding the Text

1. **Contrast Between Law and Faith:** How does Paul describe the difference between righteousness through the law and righteousness through faith?
2. **Accessibility of Faith-Based Righteousness:** What does Paul mean by saying the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart?
3. **Quoting the Old Testament:** Why does Paul reference the Old Testament (Leviticus and Deuteronomy) in his argument about faith and righteousness?
4. **Implications of "Righteousness Based on Faith":** How does the concept of "righteousness based on faith" challenge traditional views of how one becomes righteous before God?
5. **The Nearness of the Word:** Considering Paul's statement that the word is near, in our mouths and hearts, how does this proximity affect our relationship with God and our understanding of His presence?

## Practical Application

1. **The Role of Heart and Mouth in Faith:** In practical terms, what does it mean to you that righteousness through faith involves belief in the heart and confession with the mouth?
2. **Sharing the Accessible Gospel:** How can this passage inspire you to share the Gospel with others, emphasizing its simplicity and accessibility?
3. **Living Out the Word:** Given that the word of faith is near us, in our mouths and hearts, what are some daily practices that can help us internalize and live out this truth?

4. **Encouraging Others with the Nearness of Faith:** How can we use the concept of the nearness of faith to encourage others who feel distant from God or overwhelmed by the idea of seeking righteousness?

### **God Has More to Say**

Romans 10:5-8 focuses on the righteousness that comes from faith, contrasting it with the righteousness based on the law, and emphasizes the universal availability of salvation to all who call on the name of the Lord. Here are related biblical passages that further elucidate these themes:

1. **Leviticus 18:5:** Directly quoted by Paul in Romans 10:5, this verse serves as the basis for Paul's contrast between the righteousness that comes from the law and the righteousness that comes through faith.
2. **Deuteronomy 30:12-14:** Paul quotes this passage in Romans 10:6-8 to illustrate the concept of righteousness based on faith. He uses it to argue that the message of faith is not distant or inaccessible but is very near, in the mouth and heart of the believer.
3. **Galatians 3:11-12:** Here, Paul reiterates that no one is justified before God by the law, quoting Habakkuk 2:4, "The righteous shall live by faith." He contrasts this with the law, citing Leviticus 18:5 to emphasize that "the law is not based on faith."
4. **Philippians 3:9:** In this verse, Paul expresses a desire to be found in Christ, not having a righteousness of his own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God that depends on faith.
5. **Hebrews 11:1-6:** Although not a direct quote or reference, Hebrews 11 elaborates on faith, defining it and providing examples of Old Testament figures who lived by faith. This chapter complements the theme in Romans 10:5-8 by showing that true righteousness and pleasing God come through faith.
6. **Ephesians 2:8-9:** This passage emphasizes salvation by grace through faith, and not from works, so no one may boast. It aligns with the message in Romans 10:5-8 that righteousness and salvation are accessed through faith, not law-keeping.

**Prayer** - End with prayer, focusing on specific requests related to the sermon's themes, personal struggles, and applications.