

ROMANS 10:18-21

DOES GOD EVER STOP *Reaching?*

A 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

*"All the day long
I have stretched out
My hands to a disobedient
and obstinate people."*

ROMANS 10:21

SENT
TELL
HEAR
BELIEVE
CALL

 GOD CALLS

 WE LOVE

 WE SPEAK

 WE PRAY

 GOD REACHES

YOUR ONE

*Don't give up.
Keep praying.
Keep loving.
Keep trusting.*

LEAVE THE RESULTS
IN GOD'S HANDS.

I AM PRAYING FOR:

HIS HANDS ARE STRETCHED OUT.
HIS MERCY IS STILL OPEN. HIS GRACE IS STILL ENOUGH.

A 5-Day Devotional on Romans 10:18-21 • Pastor John Forthman

Day 1 - They Heard

Scripture: Romans 10:18 - "Surely they have never heard, have they? On the contrary..."

Reflection

Have you ever prayed for someone who has heard about Jesus again and again but still doesn't seem interested?

You've prayed. You've invited them. Maybe you've talked about your faith. Eventually you begin to wonder: What else can I do?

Paul understood that struggle. In Romans 10, he asks whether Israel's problem was that they simply hadn't heard. His answer is clear: They had heard.

Hearing the truth doesn't guarantee that someone will respond to it.

You can love them. You can pray for them. You can speak faithfully about Jesus. But you cannot make another person believe.

That should shape the way we see someone who is resisting Him today. We don't know when they might finally respond. We don't know what God may still do.

So don't decide that someone's story is finished while God's hands are still reaching.

Questions for Reflection

- When have I resisted God's grace?
- How has God been patient with me?
- Have I decided that someone else is beyond His reach?

Practice: Think of someone you've nearly given up on. As you pray for them today, picture God's outstretched hands and entrust their story to Him.

Prayer: Father, thank You for Your patience with me. Help me never decide that someone is beyond Your grace. Teach me to keep praying while Your hands are still reaching. Amen.

Day 2 - Grace Goes Before

Scripture: Romans 10:20 - *"I was found by those who did not seek Me, I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me."*

Reflection

Sometimes we tell our story as though we found God. But when we look back, we may discover something different. God was already reaching for us.

Before we recognized our need for Him, His grace was at work - awakening us, drawing us, and enabling us to respond.

In the Wesleyan tradition, we call this prevenient grace: the grace that goes before.

Think about your own story. Maybe God used a person, a conversation, a Scripture, an invitation, or even a difficult season to get your attention.

You may not have recognized His grace at the time. But looking back, can you see it now?

And if God was at work in your life before you recognized Him, that should give you hope for the person you're praying for.

You cannot see everything God may be doing in their life. So keep praying. Keep loving. And trust that God's grace can reach places you cannot.

Questions for Reflection

- Where can I see God's grace at work in my story?
- Who or what did God use to draw me toward Him?
- How does this give me hope for someone I'm praying for?

Practice: Take a few minutes to look back. Write down one place where you can now recognize God's grace reaching for you.

Prayer: Father, thank You for the grace that reached for me before I knew to reach for You. Help me recognize Your grace in my story and trust You with the people I love. Amen.

Day 3 - Hands Still Reaching

Scripture: Romans 10:21 - *"All the day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."*

Reflection

What picture comes to mind when you think about someone resisting God?

Romans 10 ends with a striking picture of God. His hands are still stretched out.

The people Paul describes are disobedient and resistant. They have heard, but they have refused to respond. Yet God's hands remain extended.

This verse holds two truths together: people really can resist God's grace, and God is remarkably patient with those who resist Him.

Think about your own life. Were there times when you ignored God, resisted what He was saying, or insisted on going your own way? And yet He kept reaching.

Paul didn't stop caring when people resisted. He continued praying for them and longing for their salvation.

So don't measure your faithfulness by someone else's response. Be faithful with what God has given you to do. And keep praying.

Questions for Reflection

- Who have I become discouraged praying for?
- Am I carrying responsibility for their response?
- What would faithfulness toward them look like today?

Practice: Write down the name of someone you've been tempted to give up praying for. Place them before God again today.

Prayer: Father, help me remain faithful without trying to control another person's response. Give me patience to keep praying, love that doesn't give up, and trust in Your grace. Amen.

Day 4 - People Aren't Projects

Scripture: Romans 10:1 - *"My heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation."*

Reflection

Paul knew his people were resisting the gospel. But notice how he responded.

He didn't treat them as opponents to defeat or problems to solve. He loved them. He prayed for them. He longed for them to know Christ.

People aren't projects.

When we desperately want someone to follow Jesus, it can become easy to turn every conversation into an opportunity to convince them. Our relationship with them can begin to feel like a strategy.

But people need to know that we genuinely love them - not simply that we want to change them.

So listen to them. Spend time with them. Care about what matters to them. Be present when life is difficult. And when God opens the door, be ready to speak about Jesus.

You are not responsible for saving them. Jesus is the Savior.

Your calling is to love them faithfully and keep pointing toward Him.

Questions for Reflection

- Am I loving someone or treating them like a project?
- Do I listen as well as I speak?
- What would genuine love look like this week?

Practice: Do something this week to show someone genuine love with no strings attached. Be present. Listen. Care.

Prayer: Jesus, help me see people as You see them. Teach me to love without an agenda, listen well, and be faithful when You give me an opportunity to speak. Amen.

Day 5 - How Are You Responding?

Scripture: Romans 10:21 - "All the day long I have stretched out My hands..."

Reflection

It is easy to read Romans 10 and think about someone else. The person who won't listen. The family member who keeps saying no. The friend you've been praying for.

But what if God's outstretched hands are reaching toward you?

You may already follow Jesus. But there can still be places where we resist Him.

Maybe God has been calling you to forgive someone. To let go of a sin. To make something right. To trust Him with something you've been holding tightly.

And your answer has been: "Not that."

God's grace doesn't only bring us to Christ. His grace continues working in us, changing us and making us more like Jesus.

So before this week ends, don't only ask whether someone else is responding to God. Ask yourself: How am I responding to His grace?

His hands are still stretched out. What would it look like to stop resisting and say yes?

Questions for Reflection

- Is there an area where I have been resisting God?
- What might He be asking me to surrender?
- What would one step of obedience look like?

Practice: Name one area where you need to say yes to God. Then take that step.

Prayer: Lord, show me where I have been resisting Your grace. Give me courage to surrender, trust You, and take the next step of obedience. Keep changing me into the person You are calling me to be. Amen.