



[Romans 5:8-10](#)

(8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (10) For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

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[God](#) initiates the relationship with us. He makes it possible, paving the way so that we can have [fellowship](#) with Him. Through this relationship, which He made possible through the gift of His Son, He desires to develop trust in us. Without that gift, without that expression of His [love](#), the relationship never would have begun.

God is also the one who keeps the relationship going. If He did not do this, we would not have enough [faith](#) to trust Him, just like the Israelites of old. We would be too impatient, and we would not believe what He said. Obedience, loyalty, and devotion to Him would never be produced.

So, God keeps forgiving us. He keeps extending the hand, beckoning us to come back to the relationship. This is so clearly seen in the way God dealt with Israel in the Old Testament. Over and over, He forgave her and opened the way for her to come back. He deals no differently with us.

The key element in our [salvation](#) is this fellowship, which has been initiated through the death of [Jesus Christ](#) so that, through the relationship, we can begin to conform to the [image of God](#) by being permitted into His presence. If we do not do what is necessary on our part, giving our time and attention to the fellowship—to the relationship—nothing will happen.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Romans 5:8-10 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

To learn more, see:

[Love's Emotional Dimension](#)



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