

† **Bible Passages for Further Study:**

Isaiah 43:18–19

¹⁸ “Do not remember the past events;
pay no attention to things of old.

¹⁹ Look, I am about to do something new;
even now it is coming. Do you not see it?
Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert.
{CSB}

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you”—this is the Lord’s declaration
—“plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future
and a hope.
{CSB}

Habakkuk 2:3

³ For the vision is yet for the appointed time...
Though it delays, wait for it,
since it will certainly come and not be late.{CSB}

Hebrews 10:23

²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering,
since he who promised is faithful.
{CSB}

1 Thessalonians 5:24

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will do it.
{CSB}

† **Prayer**

Faithful God, thank you that what we have already seen is not the limit of
what you can still do. Raise our expectation beyond disappointment and
deepen our confidence in your promises. Awaken the gifts you have
placed within us. Heal what needs your mercy, strengthen what needs
your grace, and open our eyes to the people you are calling us to reach.
Give us courage to pray bigger, serve gladly, forgive freely, and follow
faithfully. Make us ready for new people, new opportunities, deeper
discipleship, and greater usefulness for your kingdom.
Lord, we thank you for every good day behind us, and we believe you for
even more fruitful days ahead.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Message Notes:

How to Move Forward with Greater Faith

Series: Receive. Release. Repeat.

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Kingswood Church

Rural Hall, NC

August 16, 2026

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too
am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of
Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew...
²⁹ since God’s gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable. ³⁰ As you
once disobeyed God but now have received mercy through their
disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now disobeyed, resulting in mercy
to you, so that they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has
imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may have mercy on all.
{CSB}

Mainline: God’s _____ give us

_____ to expect more than our _____.

† **Think About This:**

God’s faithfulness gives his people every reason to face the future with
growing confidence. Difficult experiences do not determine what God can
do next, and yesterday’s disappointments do not set tomorrow’s limits.
The church can look ahead with hope because God remains faithful, his
mercy remains available, and his calling remains active. Romans 11
invites us to lift our expectations, open our hearts, and become available
for whatever God desires to do next. There are people still to reach, gifts
still to use, prayers still to pray, and possibilities still waiting for faithful
people who are ready to say “Here I am. Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

† **Questions For Reflection:**

(1) When things look discouraging, what does this passage teach us about God?

~Romans 11:1–2a

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew... {CSB}

Paul asks, “Has God rejected his people?” and answers, “Absolutely not!”

Think about it: How does knowing that God has not walked away give us hope when life or church does not look the way we hoped?

(2) Why can we still have hope when people make mistakes?

~Romans 11:1–2a

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew... {CSB}

Paul reminds us that God remains faithful even when people do not always get everything right.

Think about it: How would our outlook change if we stopped measuring the future by our failures and started trusting the faithfulness of God?

(3) What does it mean for the future that God’s “*gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable*”?

~Romans 11:29

²⁹ ...God’s gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable. {CSB}

Paul gives us a powerful reason for expectancy: God has not withdrawn his purpose.

Think about it: If God still has a purpose for his people, what should we keep believing, praying, and working toward?

(4) How can God’s mercy turn the past into a better way forward?

~Romans 11:30–32

³⁰ As you once disobeyed God but now have received mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now disobeyed, resulting in mercy to you, so that they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may have mercy on all. {CSB}

Romans 11:30–32 reminds us that everyone needs mercy, and God is still willing to give it.

Think about it: How can God use what we have learned from past mistakes to help us become stronger, wiser, and more faithful in the future?

(5) If God is still faithful, still calling, and still showing mercy, what should we expect next?

~Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew... ²⁹ since God’s gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable. ³⁰ As you once disobeyed God but now have received mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now disobeyed, resulting in mercy to you, so that they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may have mercy on all. {CSB}

Romans 11 gives us more than reassurance about yesterday. It gives us hope for tomorrow.

Think about it: Where should we begin believing God for more: more faith, more healing, more people reached, more lives changed, and more of his work being done through us?