
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

WHEN MY
spiritual life
GETS FRAYED AT THE EDGES
AND BEGINS TO TEAR AT THE SEAMS,
*I get alone and on my
face before God,*
AND POUR OUT MY HEART TO HIM.

|
DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



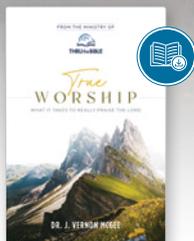


WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



DECLARING THE WORTH-SHIP OF GOD

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **“True Worship: What it Takes to Really Praise the Lord.”** Download the full digital booklet here.

Airports used to be known as “flying fields,” but the airport is only a place to take off; the flying is done up in the air. Likewise, the church is called a house of worship, but worship is not really done there; the church is simply the place from which we take off. Worship is done up yonder. Sometimes we just go out to the field, warm up the motor, race down to the end of the runway, and then come home and say we’ve worshiped God. We have not worshiped Him at all.

But don’t misunderstand. We should go to the house of God where people are to worship Him, because it is the taking-off place. We are more apt to worship God in church than in nature. We are more apt to worship God in the singing of the hymn, “There is a Green Hill Far

Away,” than on the third green of the golf course. We are more apt to worship God in John 6, the feeding of the five thousand, than at a picnic lunch on a mountainside some Lord’s Day morning. We are more apt to worship God by the Sea of Galilee than down at the local beach. We are more apt to worship God on the road to Emmaus than on the freeway. We are more apt to worship God in the Gospel of Matthew than in our city’s evening paper.

But, remember, it is possible for us to go to God’s house and not worship Him at all. In order to worship Him, we must keep our focus in mind. We must keep our heart engaged.

Worship is acknowledging God’s “worthiness” to be worshipped, His “worth-ship.” We can do that in song or in surrender; in obedience or in thought. That being said, we can worship on our feet or our faces. Our posture isn’t the priority—it only reflects the heart. Victor Hugo once said the soul is on its knees many times regardless of the position of the body. Our souls need to be prostrated before God.

Notice two Bible words. The Hebrew word *hishtahaweh* actually means to “bow the neck.” The Greek word *proskuneo* means to “bow the knee” to God. Today we need to get down on our faces before God in heaven. In the book of Revelation, we read some things we don’t understand about heaven, but one thing we can be sure about—that every time we read of those in heaven, they are either getting down on their faces or getting up off their faces from worshipping God. And, friend, if you don’t like to worship God, you wouldn’t like heaven anyway, because that is how they’re occupied. Most of the time they are worshipping God, prostrating themselves before Him on their faces. Beloved, how we need that today.



When my spiritual life gets frayed and fuzzy at the edges and begins to tear at the seams, I like to get alone, get down on my face before Him, and pour out my heart to Him. Friend, when was the last time you got down on your face before God? When was the last time you prostrated yourself before Him? Oh, it would do us good; it would deliver us from deep freeze; it would deliver us from the shell in which we live; it would create within our hearts a different attitude if we would learn to prostrate our souls before God.

The world is a noisy mess these days. Every person plays their own little tune. It's bedlam! One of these days, out from the wings will step the Conductor—the Lord Jesus Christ. And when He lifts His baton, from the ends of God's universe those galactic systems will join in and every bird, every angel, and then mankind will join the heavenly chorus. In the meantime, you can bow before Him and bring your own little soul and your own heart into the harmony of heaven.

*Every bird,
every angel, and mankind
will join the heavenly chorus.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

MY TURN

FROM DR. MCGEE:

"Attempting to define worship is the same issue a soldier stationed on the West Coast faced when his mother, a native of Kansas, wrote saying, 'When you come home, bring me a souvenir that will tell me something of the Pacific Ocean that I've heard so much about.' So he took her a bottle of sea water. It literally was the ocean, but it expressed nothing of its vastness, of the breakers along the shore, nothing of the beauty of the sunlight on the whitecaps. It told nothing of the things of the deep, of the breeze that gently hovers. But such are the limits of a definition."

WHEN YOU WANT TO DEFINE WORSHIP, BY DEFINITION YOU ARE WANTING TO DESCRIBE THE WORTH-SHIP OF JESUS CHRIST. IS HE WORTHY?

Ponder these passages from God's Word and then as an expression of worship, answer the question, "Is Jesus worthy of worship?" (You may also be blessed by the song, "Is He Worthy?" by Chris Tomlin. Look it up on  YouTube or your favorite music streaming service.)



- **Were Paul and Silas worshipping in prison?**
Read and consider Acts 16:24-26.
- **Was David worshipping when he dedicated the temple?**
Read and consider 2 Chronicles 7:1-6.
- **Was the widow worshipping with her offering?**
Read and consider Mark 12:41-44.
- **Read and describe** what was happening in Revelation 4:8-11; 5:8-14.

Now, describe what it means to worship God.



FIELD NOTES

TAKING THE WORD
TO THE WORLD

1-20-200

NEW MINISTRY IN LIBERIA—YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

A listener from Nevada, a church leader on the Bible Bus, hears Gregg and Steve talk about Home Groups in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. But their church has a heart for Liberia, Africa. Could home groups go there? He calls THRU the BIBLE with a vision and a plan.

And that's how it all began. "THRU the BIBLE traditionally has spoken to individuals about what the ministry is doing. But more and more, we minister together as the world grows smaller," says Ray Alary, THRU the BIBLE's Canadian director. "Especially our North American listeners ... they tell us about opportunities around the world with the hope of partnering together to serve them."

This was the beginning of a great opportunity in Liberia recently. The leadership of the church didn't know all of THRU the BIBLE could be put into the palm of their hand. **To the minimally educated pastor in Africa, this gift to listen and learn and then be equipped to share that Bible message with their entire congregation—** well, it was an idea that was easy enough to test. So, we sent one player to the team in Liberia. *Would they even want to listen and learn this way?—we didn't know. We'll send more if they want them.*

The Liberian team wrote back to us right away, asking for 20 more players for them to give to every church leader in their denomination. Soon after, they asked for 200 more. First one, then 20, now 200.

What this ministry team has done is launch a model for serving African pastors. This opportunity is opening doors in Togo, Benin, Tanzania, and in languages beginning with African English, Fongbe, and African French.

"We are giving the church that was once a mile wide and 1/4 inch deep the depth they need to be grounded in God's Word. A huge thank you to those who have contacted us. We appreciate your vision and generosity," says Ray Alary. **"We're no longer impacting just individuals. We're impacting whole congregations, whole countries. African churches need pastors who have been trained to teach the Bible.** That's what these players help to do."

God moves providentially in ways we can look back and see how He makes a path through. He sends His Word out through channels we never would have imagined possible. He also does this every day in our personal lives in ways we may never see. Believe that God is working—this is what it means to walk by faith.

NOTE: On the very day this article was written, 200 players shipped from Canada to our visionary church leader in Nevada who financially made this possible and will then hand carry them into Liberia.



GOD'S WORD IS FLOURISHING IN VIETNAM

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” –Isaiah 55:8-9

Do our prayers matter? As the Bible Bus rolls through Acts this month, we'll see how God used a prayer meeting held by a group of women to change the whole direction of the first-century church. And, as the World Prayer Team travels on our knees through southeastern Asia, we meet with Hao who tells us how God is responding to our intercessions in Vietnam:

“I am a young pastor in a rural area. My church is growing and is now up to 100 members. Many walk a good distance to be with us. Your programs are helpful for many Christians because they can hear the Word every day and share it with their neighbors. I don't have much training, so I am learning alongside them. We enjoy meeting together

and discussing all that God is revealing. I know this is a result of your prayers; please keep at it, because God's Word is flourishing in unexpected places.”

Today thank God that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. Ask Him to continue to use THRU the BIBLE to reach more people in Vietnam and grow His church in unexpected and wonderful places.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.

WHY STUDY ACTS?

Join in the studies on **THRU the BIBLE JULY 7—AUGUST 24** or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

Acts tells the story of what happens after Jesus returns to heaven. The Holy Spirit shows up, the church starts to grow, and the things Jesus said before He died start to make sense to His followers.

“The record is not concluded. The Holy Spirit continues to work today. The book of Acts will end with the Rapture, the coming of Jesus Christ for His own. What you and I are doing in the power of the Holy Spirit will be included in that record.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEYVERSE

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” –Acts 1:8

THE MISSION IS NOT FINISHED.

God has called us and empowered us to *take the Good News to the world.*

ACTIVITY:

- When you read the book of Acts, **star every reference to the Holy Spirit** (more than 70 times). *Look for the Holy Spirit at work in every chapter.*
- Circle the word “witness”** (more than 30 times). *Acts is all about people like us, sharing the hope we've found in Jesus with everyone who will listen.*

AT A GLANCE:

Acts 1–12 | **Peter witnesses to the Jews.** (Key word: Repent)

Acts 13–28 | **Paul witnesses to the Gentiles.** (Key word: Believe)

The history of Acts is incomplete as we carry the Word of God to the ends of the earth. You and I are a part of that continuing story. *As we partner together in love and obedience to Jesus Christ's final words to share the Good News with everyone we can, we continue the fantastic mission of Acts.*



THRU the BIBLE The Gospel Chain

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

I have always been interested in hearing how people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

You've heard me tell of how my older sister, Kathi, led me to Christ when I was a pre-teen. In college, I got involved in a wonderful campus ministry that helped grow me up in the faith. As a young man, I first heard Dr. McGee on the radio of my VW bug, and I was introduced to global ministry.

What's your chain of faith? Who first introduced you to Jesus? Who is God using to grow you up in your faith? Who is giving you a vision for your life as it relates to sharing the gospel with others? Who are you building into, as someone once built into you?

As a vital member of the THRU the BIBLE listening family, a wonderful family of faith, you are part of this Albanian shepherd boy's chain of faith. He shares: *"My brother first gave me a solar radio 13 years ago to listen to when I go out with the sheep. I had not heard about God yet, but my first program was Thru the Bible. After listening a while, I called the radio station, who then invited me to their church, where my family and I now go. Your radio program helped me know God personally. Thank you very much."*

I echo his heart—*thank you so very much*. Your partnership in taking God's whole Word to the whole world is forming long and strong links in the gospel chain.

I thank God for you!

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



J E S U S I N *Acts*

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

JESUS—WAITING TO WELCOME US HOME

Between the Gospels and Acts, we witness Jesus Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven. Jesus sends His Spirit to empower the nearly 25,000 saints. These early days were filled with wonderful stories of how God grew them up as a church.

Perhaps the best way to see Jesus at work in the book of Acts is to look at one of the leaders of the young church, Stephen. Wise, with true conviction, Stephen also was full of saving faith and serving faith. He did many great wonders and miracles, proving he acted with God's authority.

As God's Word went out, many people responded in faith in Jesus Christ. This wonderful upheaval stirred trouble with the Sadducees, who hated what was happening.

Because Stephen is a strong witness to the gospel, he catches their attention. At first, they try to argue him down. But they're no match for Stephen's wisdom and spirit. Finally, they pay witnesses to lie and frame Stephen before the Sanhedrin.

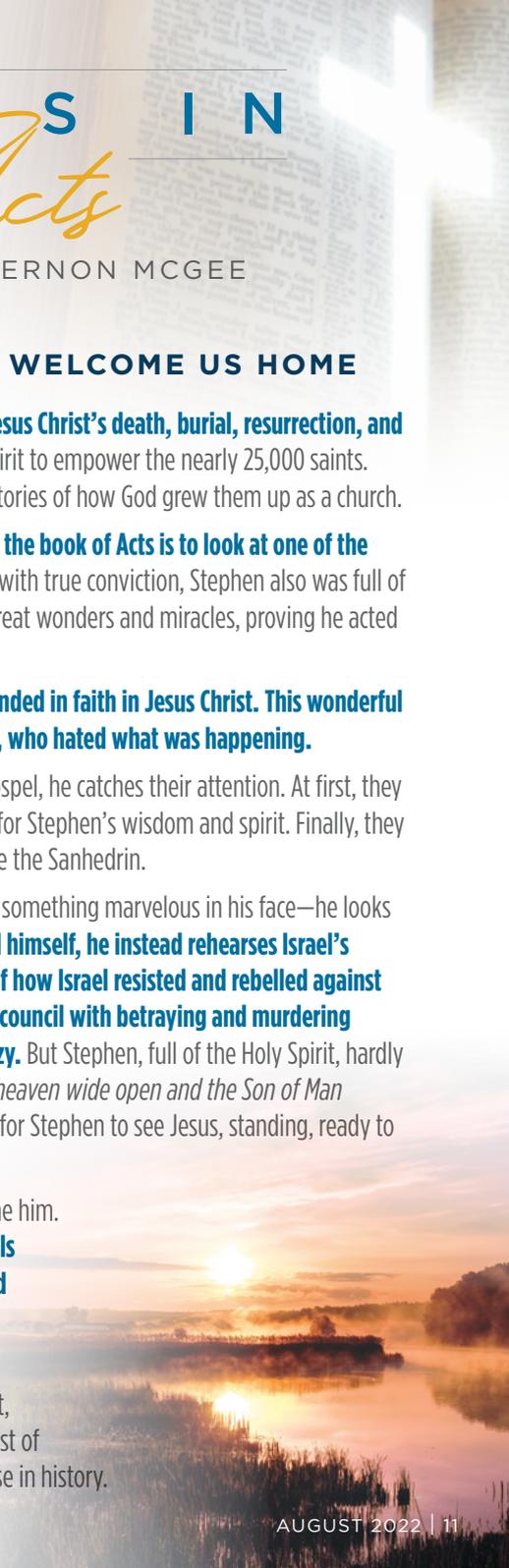
While Stephen stands in court, everyone sees something marvelous in his face—he looks like an angel. **When given a chance to defend himself, he instead rehearses Israel's history and gives a Spirit-filled description of how Israel resisted and rebelled against God. With unselfish courage, he charges the council with betraying and murdering Jesus which of course caused them to go crazy.** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, hardly notices—he only has eyes for God. *"Oh! I see heaven wide open and the Son of Man standing at God's side!"* God opened heaven for Stephen to see Jesus, standing, ready to receive His first martyr.

The crowd rushes Stephen, and begins to stone him.

As they stone Stephen, the young deacon calls out to Jesus saying, "Receive my spirit!" and "Lord, don't hold this sin against them."

Does that remind you of anyone?

Stephen goes into the presence of Jesus Christ, standing there to meet him. Stephen is the first of millions to give up his life for the highest cause in history.



ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“I grew up in a home where no one went to church and no one talked about Jesus. After I grew up, married, and had children of my own, I felt that Jesus was trying to reach me. So, I turned on my radio and started listening to preachers. I became even more confused as they all seemed to be teaching different beliefs. Then one day I found Dr. McGee and I loved his voice, so I kept listening. He made sense and I could follow his teaching. **Long story short, I surrendered my life to Christ Jesus and from then on, one by one, my whole family did the same.** I still listen to Dr. McGee every day and I always seem to learn something new. Keep the Bible Bus traveling to the hungry souls out there.”

– From **Juanita** | Florida

“Several years ago, I was about as far away from God as you can get. In fact, the thought of God never even entered my mind. Well, as you could guess, I made a mess of my life. One night, driving across Kansas on I-70 with nothing but corn fields on my right and left and in the quiet, **I sensed God asking for my attention—that’s the only way I can describe it. To get away from that new—and awkward—feeling, I turned on the radio. The reception was bad on every station except one—a Christian radio station** (go figure!). It was then I first heard that horrible southern drawl and quirky speech talk about our relationship with God. *No way*, I thought. *I’m not listening to that voice.* So, I went back to silence. A few minutes later, I turned it back on. **Long story short, that horrible drawl was the first to introduce me to the thought that God loved me, and that Jesus died for me. A few days later, through other circumstances, I surrendered my life to Jesus, my Savior.** By the way, I’ve been on the Bible Bus ever since that Kansas night, 11 years ago. **Praise God for Dr. McGee and for that southern drawl. It’s the voice of an old friend now, and I love it more every day.**”

– From an unnamed friend on the Bible Bus



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