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

GOD HAS
HIS OWN REASONS.

Trust Him now;
UNDERSTAND LATER.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

THE FOUR THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN WE SIN

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **“What it Takes to be Forgiven.”** Download the full digital booklet here.

Four things can happen to a Christian when we sin. And may I say this to you: If you are a child of God and you sin, one of these things *must* happen, because God says it will happen.

① WE LOSE THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION

After David confessed his sin, that is what he asks God to restore to him:

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
—Psalm 51:12

When David sinned, he didn't lose his salvation—but he did lose its *joy*. When we sin, we're miserable. You see, a real child of God can't have fullness of joy if you have unconfessed sin in your life (1 John 1:4, Ephesians 4:30). That's the reason Paul warns the Ephesians not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Your salvation is secure; He has sealed you for the day of redemption, but you can grieve Him so much that He can't work in your life. As a result,

your life becomes static and stale and meaningless and joyless and powerless. That happens to the child of God when we sin and do nothing about the sin in our lives.

So today, as a believer, you are either living with a grieved Holy Spirit or you are allowing Him to work.

When there's unconfessed sin in your life, the joy is lost.

② WE FACE JUDGMENT—EITHER OUR OWN OR GOD'S

May I say to you that either we judge ourselves or God judges us today. Because when a Christian sins, you actually have God's permission to deal with your own sin:

For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.
— Corinthians 11:31-32

Paul says that if a Christian has unconfessed sin in his life and he won't judge it himself, then God will move in and judge that sin. Sometimes it seems God's judgments are slow. I do not know why, but sometimes when a child of God sins and refuses to deal with it, God doesn't do anything about it right away. God has His own reason for that. But oftentimes, God will judge that Christian right on the spot, because He says, *“I have to judge the lost world, because they're sinning. But I don't want you to be judged with the world. Therefore, I'll judge you here and now for the thing you are doing.”*

3 WE RISK BEING REMOVED FROM THE SCENE

The third thing that can happen to a child of God when he sins is he may commit the “sin leading to death”:

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. –1 John 5:16

This is physical, not spiritual, death. I don’t know what sin this is that leads to death. Perhaps God doesn’t tell us is because it’s different for each of us. For Ananias and Sapphira, it happened to be lying to the Holy Spirit. That is not true today in most cases, because there are those who definitely lie to the Holy Spirit and nothing happens to them. But if I knew today what the sin leading to death was in my life, you can be sure of one thing—I’d avoid that one.

But there is a sin leading to death that a child of God can commit. And sometimes God has to say, “Come home, My child. I can’t let you keep on committing that sin.” God puts you out of operation, or maybe He removes you from the place of service. God does that today, my beloved. I could name at least 25 people I’ve definitely seen God remove. It’s like the law of gravitation in that it always works.

4 WE CAN CONFESS AND BE FORGIVEN

Then, my beloved, we come to what every child of God should do when we sin:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. –1 John 1:9

Does that mean that if we live under grace today God won’t take us to the woodshed? I think sometimes He does. But if we will confess, He says, and will judge ourselves, we will not be judged. He says that the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, keeps on cleansing us from all sin.

Friend, the important thing for a child of God is to be sure you acknowledge your sin. The words “if we confess” is in the Greek *homologemen*, meaning “to say the same thing”—that’s confession. It means to come over and stand with God and agree with Him.

When you and I sin, we so often go to the Lord and have 14 excuses lined up for why we sinned. That’s not confession. When we go to God and apologize and excuse ourselves, we do not confess our sin.

When you and I confess, we are to come over on God’s side. Say, “Lord, you say I am a sinner. I agree with you.” Confession is to call it what God calls it. If God says it’s black, we are not to say it’s gray. Admit it’s *black*. Agree with God. And when we agree with Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin. Not only that, but He cleanses us. That means the prodigal son doesn’t make a trip the next day back to the pigpen. God cleanses us from all unrighteousness—if we confess.

Trust Him. He’s wonderful. When you are His child, even if you fall, He’ll never throw you out. It’s wonderful to have a Savior like that.

MY TURN

DR. MCGEE CONCLUDED HIS MESSAGE ABOUT FORGIVENESS WITH THESE THREE CHALLENGES. WHICH ONE DO YOU NEED?

- **IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN**, hear this. When David sinned, God gave him another chance. God gave Jacob another chance. God gave Simon Peter another chance. And God will give you another chance, but you sure better agree with Him. Get over on His side and stand with Him. It’s better there, I promise.
- **IF YOU’RE A MISERABLE CHRISTIAN**—unhappy, disturbed, living without joy—may I say that you have grieved the Holy Spirit. He’s trying to get you to go to God. Like David did, just *tell* Him. Read Psalm 51 and ask the Lord, “*Wash me ... cleanse me.*” There’s a way back. Christian, God says He will restore your joy and that He wants your joy to be *full*.
- **IF YOU’VE NEVER TRUSTED GOD**, He’s not asking you to confess anything. He’s asking you instead, “*What will you do with Jesus who died for you on the cross, to take away all your sin?*” You see, He deals with His children differently than He deals with those who are not His children. And if you have not accepted Him or received Him as your Savior, that’s all He wants you to do. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die because you are a sinner, and all He asks you to do is to receive Christ as your Savior. He says, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). That’s His invitation to you.



“GOD SPEAKS OUR LANGUAGE”

AN UPDATE ON HOME GROUPS—WITH A SPECIAL REQUEST

Last month on the Bible Bus program we were studying the book of Acts. We learned how in the first century, the life of the church began in the home and continued through small communities of people, dedicated to caring for each other, committed to studying God’s Word together, and living out God’s truth where they live. Dr. McGee liked to say that what begins in the home will someday come full circle and come back to the home.

As you know, in some amazing locations in the world today, we’re seeing this happen.

THRU the BIBLE’s Home Groups, more than 20,000 documented small group gatherings and likely many more thousand undocumented groups, are meeting this month in homes throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

If you’ve been around THRU the BIBLE for a while, you may have noticed that list of locations is growing, and you’d be right. Soon we’ll be telling you about how Home Groups have started in Ghana, Togo, Kenya, Tanzania (all of Africa, even), and also in Suriname (South America—see June 2022’s newsletter for that amazing story of how God works). Europe and the Arab world are not far behind.

There’s no question in our minds that this movement is a “God-thing.” We never would have imagined this simple concept of studying God’s Word in neighborhood and small group settings would be so successful—especially in places where you’d be hard-pressed to find the formal teaching of God’s Word anywhere. And yet, there it is coming out of the neighborhood loud and clear.

That’s what makes this idea so viral. Neighborhoods in India and through south Asia are not like ours in North America. They live much closer, and often without air conditioning. Windows are open, and multiple generations fill the home. When they want to share something with their neighbors, they put the player in their windows and turn up the volume so the neighbors can listen whether they want to or not.

And what’s surprising is that many, many want to listen. The message of God’s Word is different from their indigenous faith, which isn’t in their language. **In the THRU the BIBLE Home Groups the people say, “God speaks our language.”**

This one truth changes everything.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are 129 languages in the Home Group initiative in India alone.

While the religion of most in south Asia has many deities, none of their thousands of gods speak a language they understand.

On the other hand, the Bible teaches about a relatable God—one who wants to know them and who invites them to know Him.

We’ve heard people say, “When we study God’s Word, He is in our homes with us.” No wonder the number of small groups is growing.

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What are the groups studying? The same things we study on the Bible Bus, though at a slower pace and a select number of Bible books based on the region. When they gather each week, they listen to one study and then a leader directs them in some understanding and application questions. Almost all groups begin by studying the Gospel of John, because most people don't yet know Jesus Christ as their Savior and John 20:31 says this book was “written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

WE CALL ON YOU TO PRAY FOR THESE SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- Praise God that His Word clearly is having impact in areas where the name of Jesus is being heard for the first time. **Pray the Bible Bus travels to new places without hindrance. Pray with joy and faith!**
- **Pray for the safety of groups meeting in countries where the Bible is prohibited.** Because the gatherings are in homes and not in public places, the risk is lower—but still present.
- **Intercede for new THRU the BIBLE Home Groups** beginning in Bosnia, Turkey, and Macedonia as they face the unique challenges of ministry in eastern Europe.

We'll continue to keep you informed how you can partner with these THRU the BIBLE groups in prayer. **Perhaps enlist the prayer support of your own small group—your group praying for these other small groups in Asia and Africa, and soon in South America and Europe.** It seems like a natural thing to do that we can talk about in heaven one day when people from all our small groups gather around God's throne. Revelation 7:9 tells us “a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes”

Thank you for partnering together with us in prayer as we look forward to this scene from Revelation becoming a reality someday soon.



THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

Continuing the Book of Acts, Fearlessly

Did you read about Home Groups on page 6? The hunger for God's Word that's happening in the most unexpected places of the world can only be explained as a movement of God.

Last month as we closed our study of Acts, Dr. McGee reminded us, “The history of the church is not complete.” As we partner together in love and obedience to our Savior and His final words to share the good news with everyone, we continue the wonderful book of Acts. What a privilege to be a part and to hear from those who are joining us in the family of God.

Here's one of my favorite letters from this month. It's from an Urdu-speaking sister in India named Zeenet:

“We live in a Muslim village. It is not easy. Many times, my husband and boys are asked to become Muslim. We became worried about the situation. My husband's brother had a similar situation in another village, and when he would not convert, they destroyed his business and filled his life with misery. Very few Christians live near us. When we started our home group, we experienced a strange peace of mind. Now we are filled with excitement from the power of the Holy Spirit. I have put Psalm 23:1 on my main gate as our testimony that we belong to God. We thank God for His hope that gives us courage to live fearlessly.”

Grateful for your partnership for the sake of the gospel,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President





THE SWEET ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

“Christ’s work of redemption is adequate enough to secure the perfect salvation for the sinner who trusts Him.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

God’s Word is filled with promises of why we can trust Him with our lives. Tabita in Pakistan said hearing them changed her life. She writes:

“As a teenager, I was far away from God and uncomfortable with my daily existence. Then a neighbor asked me to visit a listening group where I heard God’s offer to save me. At first, this seemed too good to be true, but the idea was intriguing. Little by little, learning about how Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead changed my life. I felt a quest for salvation within me. I began reading the Bible, and soon I repented from all my sins.

“At the age of about eighteen, I was baptized in water. Now I have the wonderful experience of having surety that I am a saved person. I know I am God’s child, and I am assured He loves me.

What a sweet, sweet gift. I pray others hear about Him and come before Jesus with humility.”

More than 99% of Pakistanis are unreached with the gospel. As God’s Word goes out on THRU the BIBLE, let’s join Tabita in praying more will confess the Lord Jesus with their mouths, believe in their hearts that God has raised Him them from the dead, and are saved (Romans 10:9). Ask God for the sweet assurance of salvation to become theirs today.

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**
TO SIGN UP.

WHY STUDY 1 & 2 SAMUEL?

Join in the studies on
THRU the BIBLE **AUGUST 25—
OCTOBER 5** or anytime online,
by podcast, or by mobile app.

When we put God on the throne, we experience blessing and victory. When we don’t, God overrules. Such are the lessons we can learn from the exciting, early days of Israel.

“It is only what you and I do by the power of the Holy Spirit that will count. We need to learn to be dependent upon Him and rest in Him.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEYVERSE

“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.” –1 Samuel 12:24

THE EXCITING YEARS OF ISRAEL’S EARLY HISTORY IN THE LIVES OF 5 PEOPLE

- **SAMUEL** — Israel’s last judge who supervised the transition to the monarchy.
- **SAUL** — Israel’s first king, whose flawed character and unwillingness to trust God led to tragedy.
- **DAVID** — the “man after God’s heart” whose faith and devotion to the Lord lifted him from shepherd boy to Israel’s greatest, most effective, and most creative king.
- **NATHAN** — the bold prophet who confronts David and leads him to repent.
- **ABSALOM** — the son who breaks David’s heart and leads a rebellion against his father.

OUR STORY IN THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL

- Difficult situations can be transforming by bringing them to God in prayer.
- Hearing God speak and then doing what He says is the key to the spiritual life.
- We pay a price for bad choices.

READ 1 & 2 SAMUEL WITH YOUR EYES AND HEART OPEN AND YOU WILL LITERALLY FIND MULTIPLE LESSONS IN EVERY CHAPTER—

write your own list of take-aways as you study.

Choose God’s way. That’s the theme we’ll see repeated in the books of Samuel. Look for the godly lessons and make them your own, and you’ll enjoy a beautiful life with God.

ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS

NEW MINISTRY TOOL: A BIBLE BUS PASS

Inviting others to join us on the Bible Bus has long been a common practice for our THRU the BIBLE family. **Story after story can be told of how God uses “word of mouth” as our best and finest ministry effort.**

Now a new ministry tool will make sharing how to listen to THRU the BIBLE even easier. **A “Bible Bus Pass” includes the information your friend, neighbor, family, etc., needs to know. When you hand it to them, tell them what studying the Bible means to you and how they might join you “on the Bible Bus.”**

This first blue pass has a QR code and website information on how to listen to THRU the BIBLE. Future Bus Passes will direct to other resources. We made it a convenient size, easy to have ready in your wallet or as a bookmark.

We've included a couple with your newsletter this month.

You can order more (free of charge) in packs of 10. Let us know how you use them—*we love your creativity and personal interaction.*



**TOGETHER, LET'S TAKE THE WHOLE WORD TO THE
WHOLE WORLD—BEGINNING WITH OUR OWN!**



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