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

The Spirit of God will help you,
strengthen you,
relieve the loneliness,
ease the grief,
and calm your fears.

He is your advocate in trouble.

He is with you in
the desperate hour of life.

He comes alongside you
to comfort you.

J. VERNON MCGEE





WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



A TIME TO GRIEVE, A TIME TO DANCE

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Ecclesiastes 3 illustrates the circles of life, describing different seasons—a time to cry, a time to laugh, a time to grieve, a time to dance. Today, I want to talk to those who are grieving. Perhaps you’ve lost someone dear. Perhaps a life circumstance has dramatically changed, either through a job or a move or a family upheaval. You feel a big gaping hole in your life, and you need something to fill it in.

May I tell you about how to fill that hole in your life with God’s comfort from “the God of all mercies”?

**BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT.**

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3

To equip the Corinthian Christians for hard times, Paul taught them about God Himself. *He is the God of all comfort and the Father of mercies.* Did you know that about God? When you are convinced of the truth of God’s Word, you can live it out with enthusiasm even when you’re traveling through loss. Believe it today.

Let me remind you of God’s love, grace, and mercy. First, it’s true that God loves us. It would break our hearts if we could grasp just how much He does. But it’s sloppy theology to say God saves us by His love—we’re saved by God’s grace.

We call grace *unmerited favor*, which means God saves us on a different basis than merit. Why? As “the Father of mercies,” God provided a Savior for us. Out of mercy, He provided what we didn’t have but totally needed.

Do you need mercy today? If you need cash, you go to a bank to get it. If you need mercy, go to the Father of mercies. When you need help, go to Him. After all, anything and everything you have today is a mercy from Him. We don’t deserve any of it, but He gives it all to us freely.

Our Father is also “the God of all comfort”—comfort means “to come alongside of.” The same word describes the Holy Spirit, the *paraclete*, the One called to our side. When the Lord Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, He said He would send a Helper. *“He will abide with you forever ... I promise to come to you.”* The Spirit of God is called to help you, to strengthen you, to relieve the loneliness, ease the grief, and calm your fears. He is your advocate in time of fear and trouble. He will be with you in the desperate hour of life. (See Psalm 30:10.) When our soul cries out for the Comforter, He comes alongside us. When we know for sure that God is with us in all life’s troubles, we can live by faith and not by fear.

You can test these truths in the crucible of life. God will comfort you in the hospital. He will comfort you at the funeral home when you have a loved one there. He will comfort you in any place at any time. This is His character.

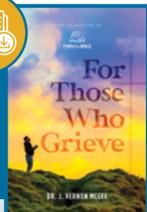
You can be honest with Him. Tell Him how you feel. Tell Him you don't like what is happening to you. He knows all about it anyway.

Paul knows all about trouble and God's comfort through it all. He told the Corinthians that when he first was in Asia, the times were so intense he didn't think they were going to make it. *"As it turned out,"* he said, *"it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally."* (See 2 Corinthians 1:8-10.)

God does permit Christians to suffer. He has a good reason—a very wonderful purpose in it all, though we may not see it at the time. He works it all out for the good of those He loves. He intends for it to serve a good purpose so we can comfort someone else. Regardless of what you're going through, God gives it to you so you can share the blessing with others. Your health, your wealth, your talent or a gift, He wants you to share it with others. Each issues from the mercy of God. So does suffering. You might not have thought it was goodness and mercy to have a couple of dogs yapping at you to keep you from going to the left or to the right, but it is God's mercy that keeps us on His path, and He uses trial and difficulty for that purpose.

Life on life—that's how Paul described the work of the ministry. We pray for each other, we help each other in trouble, we learn how to trust God from watching each other go through trouble. Our testimony in life matters. God uses it to show others how to live by faith. Suffering, in part, produces this grace.

If you are a child of God, He has become your abiding place. He is also at home in you. He's with us through all of life's sorrows and joys, and He comforts us in our grieving.



For more comfort from Dr. McGee, download "For Those Who Grieve" for free at TTB.org/booklets.

MY TURN

Dr. McGee tells this true story about how God comforts us in grief:

A young husband and his little girl were grieving the sudden death of his wife. After the service, friends gathered around them and urged them to go with them to their homes for a few days. He refused, saying he'd have to face the reality of life without his wife, and he would begin at once. He took the little girl back to the lonely house where everything in it reminded him of his wife. The little girl, sensing something was wrong but not old enough to appreciate the situation, kept calling for her mother. When he finally tucked the little one in bed and he was in bed thinking she was asleep, he cried aloud in his anguish, "O God, it is dark down here."

His little girl wasn't asleep and began to cry, "Daddy, it is dark over here, too." The father climbed in her bed beside her and tried to comfort her sobbing. Then she reached over in the darkness and felt for his face. "Daddy," she said, "I can go to sleep if your face is toward me." Being assured that he was watching her, she soon dropped off into peaceful rest.

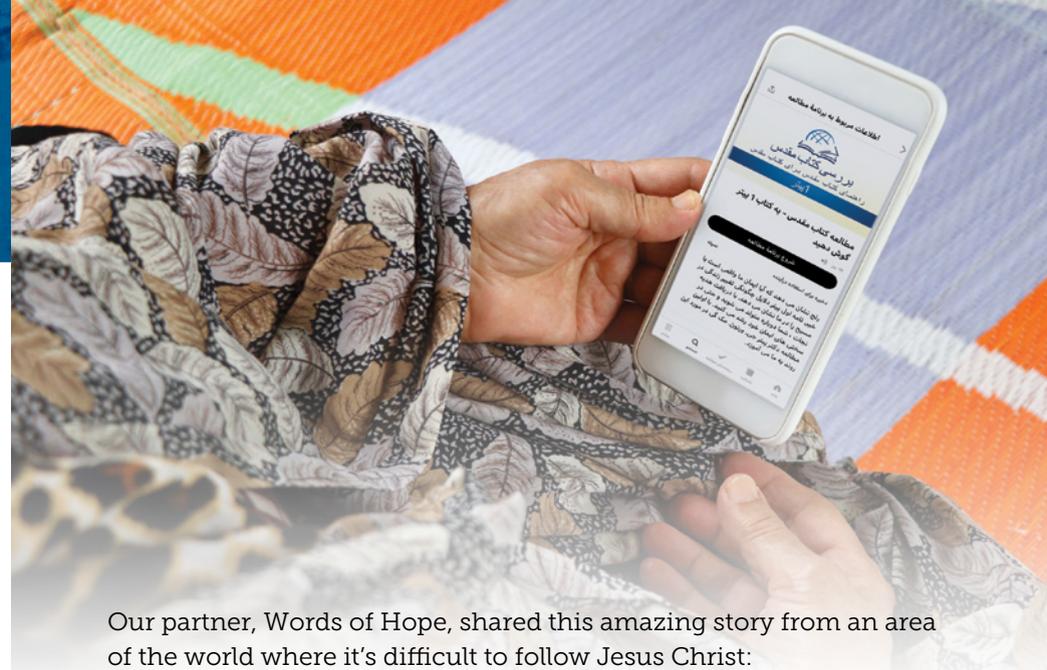
In the dark, he thought about his daughter's simple faith and trust in him as a father. Then he cried out again, "O God, it is dark down here, but I can bear it if I know Your face is toward me." Soon he too was sound asleep.

In a time of darkness and emergency, the Holy Spirit confirms the sad spirit of His child. He assures him that he is a son of God and that the Heavenly Father is watching and loving him as he grieves. He is the God of all comfort.



- 1 What about this story touches you?
- 2 "Be honest with God. Tell Him how you feel. Tell Him you don't like what is happening to you. He knows all about it anyway. He wants you to talk frankly with Him." Dr. McGee encourages you to be honest with God. Take some time today to go on a walk with the Lord. Pour out your heart to Him. Ask Him for His perspective and comfort.
- 3 How might there be good coming from your suffering? What would you hope to communicate in your grief that you want others to benefit from?





THIS IS HOW PARTNERSHIP WORKS



Ray Alary, THRU the BIBLE-Canada Executive Director

Say the word “COVID-19” and you’ll get a groan. Lockdowns, job loss, travel restrictions, sickness and loss of life. We all want it to be over.

But surprisingly, God is using this difficult season for His amazing purposes.

When the crisis first struck in Italy, a conversation took place at THRU the BIBLE that sounded something like this, “What if we could take THRU the BIBLE into every house, every hospital, to anyone who could put their cellphone next to their ear and listen?” And then, “And how could we do this *quickly*?” People in Italy were rapidly losing hope. The need was immediate. And the hope of Christ was in our hands.

At that point, the pandemic had only spread to Italy, Spain, and Iran. If we were going to deepen our impact in these three countries, it would take partners, and not just one.

For all three countries, our partner  YouVersion stepped up. They were already bringing God’s Word to these regions digitally. Would they deliver audio messages? “We’re in—let’s do this,” they said enthusiastically.

On the ground, our partnership with TWR carried the project to Spain and Italy. In Iran, the ministry of Words of Hope took the lead. In all, dozens of people—many of them volunteers—worked tirelessly to ready the programs and format them in YouVersion’s app.

Would people listen?

Our partner, Words of Hope, shared this amazing story from an area of the world where it’s difficult to follow Jesus Christ:

A Farsi-speaking woman living in Pakistan found *Thru the Bible* on the radio. She desperately wanted a Bible, but she feared her husband, a zealous Muslim, would find it. A worker with Words of Hope spent an hour with her, helping her download YouVersion step by step to her phone so she could read the Bible and listen to *Thru the Bible* on YouVersion. The digital technology today allows her and others to discreetly listen to *Thru the Bible* in a hostile, unforgiving culture.

Of all the stories that come out of COVID-19, this one is of life and hope, found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s pray for this woman—and many others in similar hazardous worlds—that God’s Word will fill her life with spiritual blessing.

Now to be practical, when you attempt a project of this size and depth, and then try to do it quickly, there’s likely to be tension somewhere. But by God’s grace, all three languages launched in harmony as our partners came together under one purpose. We thank God for them and their united spirit in taking God’s whole Word to His whole world. The crisis created a need, and now untold thousands have been blessed by God’s Word brought to them in their own heart language.

This is a story of how partnership works. We thank God for you, too. Your prayers and support take God’s Word to the corners of the earth. He is using you to accomplish His great purposes. Now that’s a great story!





WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE VERSE ABOUT GOD'S GOODNESS?

"I am passing through many difficulties, and I feel like there is no earth below my feet. Please, I need your prayers."

That's what we hear from a listener from Mozambique today as our prayer trek through Western Africa continues. She tells us more:

"As a child I was taught when we accept Christ, there would be no more trouble. But I realize now it's not like I was promised! I thought about abandoning God altogether, but I listened to your programs and have realized God is with me even though I feel as though I want to die.

"Thank you for explaining that as Christians we will have difficulties, but we can face them with the hope of Jesus Christ. This has changed my thinking.

"Please pray for me and keep teaching God's Word. Your messages are a help in these sad days."

The Bible is filled with verses about how God cares for us and upholds us in the middle of our fear and worry. What verse do you immediately think of? Perhaps Psalm 91:14-16, Zephaniah 3:17, Lamentations 3:22-23 ... or how about Jeremiah 32:27? Use one of these or your favorite Scripture on God's goodness to pray for this sister and all who are struggling in Mozambique and around the world.

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

GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY TO SIGN UP.

What's Happening at **THRU** the **BIBLE**

WHY DO YOU LOVE THE BIBLE?

You show up every day with the Word open, asking God to speak to you, to teach you, to encourage you—what is it that keeps you coming back over a lifetime?

We invite you to share in celebrating the kick-off of a new 5-year journey through the whole Word of God this April. We're putting together a special video to celebrate and would love to include your response to the question, "Why Do You Love the Bible?"

In 30 seconds or less, share a specific reason you love the Bible. Capture it on video—on your smart phone will be just fine. Then upload it at TTB.org/love by March 1. **Let it be a worshipful experience as you thank God for the gift of His Word.**

(Of course, we always love your letters, emails, and posts, too.)





THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

Light pierces the darkness ...

If you've ever flown at night and looked at the dark landscape below, you know that a tiny light is visible from a great distance.

Today, a tiny light is shining in spiritually dark Kazakhstan in central Asia where locals say, "to be Kazakh is to be Muslim."

Imagine our surprise to get this letter from a Kazakh woman:

"I used to believe we were born as followers of the religion of our country, and so we will be till we die; we cannot change our faith. Then I started to listen to your program, and I understood what it really means to believe. I believed on the name of Jesus Christ through the radio. I cannot read the Bible at home because if my husband finds out about my faith, he might kill or hurt me. But I was given an SD card with your programs recorded on it, so I listen to them secretly. Thank you for bringing me the Word of life. Jesus has become my life."

And just like that, a light pierces the darkness.

Keep praying toward our goal of taking God's whole Word to the whole world. Like old Zacharias prayed, "Through the tender mercy of our God ... to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President

J E S U S I N

Revelation

We met Jesus in the Gospel narratives first as a baby. That's how He entered the world the first time. He was meek and lowly. He rode into Jerusalem on a little donkey, which spoke of peace, not war. He was the Savior who died for sinners.

Now in Revelation, Jesus Christ enters in great glory. In Revelation 19, the gates of heaven open and Jesus Christ the Lord exits, seated high on a white horse of warfare. Behind Him follow the armies of heaven, all on white horses and dressed in dazzling white linen. Jesus' eyes are a blaze of fire and out of His mouth comes a sharp sword to conquer the nations, then rule them with a rod of iron. **He is now the judge of a sinful world, and on His head is the crown of the sole ruler of earth. On His robe, dipped in blood, and on His thigh is written, "King of kings and Lord of lords," and no one alive doesn't tremble at the sight of Him.**

If today you've wondered why God doesn't deal with the evil in the world, look to this day yet future. Jesus is called "Faithful and True" because He has come to execute the long-time program of God. He is making good on God's promises. He is addressed as "The Word of God."

Jesus also has a name that no one knows but Himself. What is the name? We will discover it in eternity, and it will take that long to really know Him. **This is eternal life—to know the one, true God. And the more we know Him, the more exciting He will be.**

As Revelation ends, the Lord Jesus repeats what He said from the beginning: **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last"** (22:13).

Oh, the name and the person of Jesus, the centerpiece of Scripture and focal point of time. How awesome and unspeakably wonderful He is! The Lamb of God slain before the world began, now lifted up in His rightful place.

May the Spirit of God make Him real to you today.



WHY DO YOU



The Bible?

A SPOTLIGHT ON GOD'S SON

I love the Bible because ... first and foremost, it points me to Jesus. In every book, God puts a spotlight on His Son. I appreciate how our daily studies show me that. I also like how it practically puts a “lamp to my feet and a light to my path” ... it helps me make godly decisions. **Lastly, I love the Bible because it enlarges my vision for what God is doing**—in the world, in my church, in my home, and in my heart. It just keeps getting bigger!

Diana | Temescal Valley, CA

GOD BLESS THE BIBLE BUS

I have been on the Bible Bus for two years now. My wife jumped on a year ago.

We both have grown tremendously.

With the lockdowns, church closures, social unrest, and now this political confusion, we have been comforted by

Dr. McGee's teaching. It is absolutely amazing all his lessons are still completely relevant today. Without this ministry, we would never have studied the Bible so closely. Thank you so very much!

God bless the Bible Bus.

Near Tacoma, WA



Box 7100, Pasadena, California 91109-7100
P.O. Box 25325, London, Ontario, Canada N6C 6B1



1-800 65-BIBLE (24253)



Fax: 626-449-4430



TTB.org



BibleBus@ttb.org



/ThruTheBibleNet



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