

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

SALVATION DOESN'T HAPPEN  
JUST IN THE HEAD OR THE HEART.  
**SALVATION IS WHEN WE ACT—  
WHEN WE BELIEVE ON HIM.**

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the **BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



## FAITH FOR ALL THREE OF YOU

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

All three of you? Yes. God created you in three parts that make up the whole of who you are.

**YOUR MIND:** Where you think and reason.

**YOUR EMOTIONS:** Where your heart speaks and feels.

**YOUR WILL:** Where you decide and act.

Join Dr. J. Vernon McGee as he explains how faith shows up in all three parts of you.

First, let's define what we mean by faith. The best and only place to go to understand what faith is is the Bible. Ready for a simple definition?

*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him ....* -1 John 5:14

Faith is a personal confidence in God. That's all. That confidence touches everything we are. God directs the gospel to all that we are, and invites us to respond in all three parts of our being.

## FAITH SPEAKS TO THE INTELLECT

Come to God with your questions, and He will give you evidence for your mind to consider. God does not ask anyone to take a leap in the dark when you come to Him. Faith rests upon the tangible. Paul says in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Faith is no gamble; it's the surest thing there is.

Believe God. That's all Abraham did. "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Abraham was a good man, but he did not count on his own righteousness. He was told to believe God, and Abraham said, "I believe You. I have confidence in God." That is what God asks of you and me.

Someone asked Martin Luther, "Do you feel you've been forgiven?" He answered, "No, but I am as sure as there's a God in heaven. For feelings come and feelings go. Feelings are deceiving. My warrant is the Word of God. None else is worth believing."

He had documented evidence. My friend, God appeals to the mind and asks you to examine the evidence. If you think faith is contrary to reason or to knowledge, you're wrong. God begins with you there. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Our Lord said in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Faith is not contrary to reason. God appeals to our intellect.



Want to know more about having a full-bodied faith? [Click here to download "Firm Up Your Faith: How to Have Confidence in God."](#)

## FAITH SPEAKS TO THE EMOTIONS

That will either encourage or frighten you. Too often we swing to extremes when we consider our emotional makeup. God made us with emotions. We either stuff them and deny they exist, or we make them the engine to our locomotive. Let's be clear, emotionalism is not the way to get to God, but God does tell us to believe in our hearts (Romans 10:9,10). It's in our hearts that we live and move and have our being. Not in our heads. Many of us use our hearts more than our brains, and Scripture recognizes it. Look at Proverbs 4:23, which warns us to protect our hearts, to "keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

Our problems are not in our heads—they're in our hearts. We're not silly; we're sinful. We're not weak; we're wicked.

When there is no place for emotion, people turn away in unbelief, their hearts having become hardened. Our hearts need to be stirred.

AFFIRM YOUR *confidence*  
IN THESE TRUTHS AGAIN.  
IT IS YOUR DAY!

## FAITH SPEAKS TO THE WILL

Hebrews 11:1 says faith is "the evidence of things not seen." If it's not seen, how can we believe it? Faith is a conviction—it comes out of the will. Every time God asks a man to believe, He puts with it a little preposition that denotes *action*.

John 3:16 says that "whoever **believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life." And Acts 16:31 says, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.**" God appeals to the volitional part of man—to our wills.

God asks us to *do* something. Therefore, faith is more than just mental assent. It's more than just shedding tears. Faith is something we act upon. Salvation doesn't happen in the head, and it doesn't happen just in the heart. May I say, salvation is when we *act*—when we *believe on* Him.

Today is your day to affirm these truths with your heart, your mind, and your will (if you're already saved, affirm your confidence in these truths again). It is your day to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

## » MY TURN

LIVING BY FAITH MEANS YOU BELIEVE IN GOD WITH ALL THREE PARTS OF YOURSELF: YOUR HEART, YOUR MIND, AND YOUR STRENGTH.

- 1** Have confidence in God by what you think about today. Meditate on Colossians 3:1-3: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- 2** Have confidence in God by wanting what He wants for you. Meditate on Psalm 37:3-5: "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."
- 3** Have confidence in God by doing what He asks. Meditate on what Jesus said in John 15 that if we love Him, we should show it by doing what He's told us to do.



## FROM HOME GROUPS TO CHURCHES: THE GOSPEL TRAVELS A NEW, OLD PATH

A local pastor in India said when he was introduced to *Thru the Bible's* Home Group model, "I have been praying for something like this for 16 years! Now our people can learn the Word of God systematically."

For months now on the Bible Bus, you've likely heard Gregg and Steve talk about the Home Groups that are forming throughout India, in Bangladesh, Nepal, and now in north Africa.

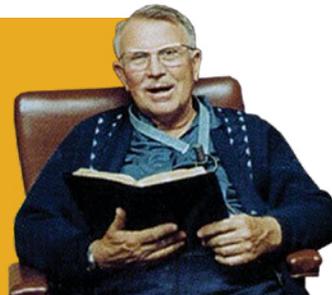
### WHAT IS A THRU THE BIBLE RADIO HOME GROUP?

**ON THE RADIO:** *Thru the Bible* is heard in India in 25 of their most recognized trade languages. But India has over 1,600 languages—too many and too expensive to broadcast them all on radio. In other regions, it's the radio that's inaccessible.

But George Philip, the leader of TWR-India, had an idea. As an experiment, he translated some of Dr. McGee's key teaching from several Bible books into India's smaller languages. Working with churches and mission groups around India, they developed a 3-year weekly curriculum to be used in "*Thru the Bible* Home Groups."

### Dr. McGee ON HOME GROUPS:

"The local church met in private homes for the first three centuries. The church began in the home; it will return to the home today. The church has never been the building. Many of the great mausoleums called churches today are nothing but a pile of brick and stone and mortar. The real church is a living body of believers." —From our study in Romans 16



## WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

**A Radio Home Group is simple:** Gather 7-10 people every week to listen to Dr. McGee's teaching on a digital player, followed by discussion and prayer. The hope is that this group would eventually develop into a church fellowship.

Today, more than **5,000** Radio Home Groups meet every week across India, listening to *Thru the Bible* in 124 different languages.



**WHY SO MANY LANGUAGES?** It's all about reaching people with the Word of God in their "heart language," often referred to as their "mother tongue."

**IN NEARBY BANGLADESH:** After just a few months of a similar Radio Home Group ministry launch, more than **100** groups study *Thru the Bible* together.

**AND IN PAKISTAN,** more than **1000** groups are now studying *Thru the Bible* in Home Groups.

**RECENTLY, THE HOME GROUP INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN MAURITANIA,** in Hassaniya Arabic. This West African country is almost 100% Muslim and— from man's point of view—an impossible terrain for the spread of the gospel.

If you want to pray specifically for spiritual fruit to grow in south Asia and northern Africa, ask God to provide the people and resources to translate *Thru the Bible* content for these new groups reaching a potential audience of 133 million in India alone. Ask in faith that God would open doors and hearts so many thousands will encounter God's Word in new ways.

**For more on *Thru the Bible* Home Groups, go to [TTB.org/homegroups](http://TTB.org/homegroups).**



In Bangladesh, **Gregg & Pastor Jagodish**, who has 22 Home Groups. He says, "Great impact on the pastors leading the groups. They've never had such teaching. Lots of nonbelievers are coming to the group!"



(Chennai, India) **Steve and Gregg with a leader with India Evangelical Mission**, who has 130 *Thru the Bible* groups meeting as part of his ministry. The people in these groups speak 80 different languages. He loves TTB and listens to TTB-Tamil every day. He is very blessed by the programs and wants to work to get TTB into as many of these 80 languages as possible!



## TRAVEL THE WORLD IN 2020

*Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth. –Psalm 57:5*

### Welcome, World Prayer Team!

We're grateful to have you aboard as we begin a New Year (and a new journey) praying for God's glory to be seen and His name to be exalted.

Join us each Monday through Friday as we pray our way through cities, countries, and continents asking God to intervene in the hearts and lives of those we meet along the way.

To get you excited for what's to come, we've scheduled a quick global tour in January. This fast-paced journey will take us through 23 regions as we pray in broad brush strokes and ask God to open our eyes and hearts to the areas where He is at work.

Then, in February, our itinerary will slow down a bit as we refine our focus and begin our travels

through one country each day. Together we'll ask God to intervene in His time and in His way.

It's going to be an amazing adventure. Our deepest desire is that we will:

- Learn more about God's amazing world and our part in it.
- Feel connected with the hearts of our brothers and sisters, those we may never meet, who live in amazing places we may never visit.
- Draw closer to the Father, as we realize (in new and fresh ways) the depth and breadth of His love for His people ... including each one of us.

**Do you know someone who'd like to become a  WorldPrayerToday member? Be sure to invite them to sign up today at [TTB.org/pray](https://ttb.org/pray).**

# We Believe

We believe in the Bible and *Jesus Christ* as its singular focus.

We celebrate every day how firm a foundation and how Jesus paid it all.

We save each other seats on the Bible Bus and get our knees dirty on behalf of those we'll sit next to at heaven's banquet table.

And on that day, we'll tell stories about what God did in our generation at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

About how we worked together to take *His Word* to our neighbors and to those living where it's dangerous to say His name.

About how God's Word satisfies our own soul-hunger and completes in us more than even we understand.

We walk in the steps of a man who loved the Lord, his wife, and the beloved. Who lingered at Maui sunsets and in chicken restaurants, and ate off others' plates at church picnics. We take his words farther than he ever dreamed, richly blessing others with God's Word, simply taught, showing us how wonderful Jesus is.

### WE BELIEVE NOTHING'S BETTER THAN FOLLOWING JESUS.

It's our privilege to take, by faith, *His whole Word to the whole world with you.*

We welcome you to 2020 and to all that is good and precious in serving our Lord Jesus together this year.



THRU the BIBLE

## A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

If anyone asked us why *Thru the Bible* is so focused on “taking the whole Word to the whole Word,” most of us would say, because Jesus told us to.

And that’s true. The last thing Jesus said before His feet lifted off the Mount of Olives and returned to heaven in Matthew 28 was, *Go make disciples of all the nations ... teach them.* And so that is what we are doing in partnership each month. *Thru the Bible* does not do this alone. As you pray and support this ministry effort, we do it together.

But that’s just part of the story.

Do you also realize that God has had the nations in mind for generations? God is reversing what He did back at the Tower of Babel. He confused and separated people by introducing languages—and now He’s bringing people back together again by bringing the gospel to them in their own languages, especially the language that speaks to each individual heart.

Because everywhere the gospel goes, people will call on the name of the Lord.

This is the mission you and I get to be part of when we take the whole Word to the whole world. We get to witness people hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ and running to Him.

We do this together, in the power of God’s Spirit carrying the truth of God’s Word. And here’s even better news—Jesus told us in Matthew 28, “*And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Amen.

Let’s remember this amazing mission and do what He says every day of the new year. And be encouraged—He promises to be with us.

Grateful for your investment,

Gregg Harris  
President, *Thru the Bible*



## WHY STUDY HOSEA & JOEL?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* (Hosea airs JANUARY 22—FEBRUARY 11 and Joel airs MARCH 5-16) or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

### HOSEA

**There is no pain like family pain. Nothing hurts worse than the heartache we feel as it relates to those we love and those who love us.**

*“The book of Hosea pictures God’s love for a broken family. Typically, if what happened in Hosea happened in our family, we’d just as soon bury it or push it aside or cover it up. But God brings our need out into the open. He’d rather us face it and give the Lord a chance to heal it. And that’s when He does for us what we can’t do for ourselves.”*

—Dr. J. Vernon McGee

*... Let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.*  
—Hosea 6:3 ESV



### GOD’S PURPOSES IN HOSEA:

He’s after your heart (6:6).  
He relentlessly pursues you, even when you run.



### JOEL

**Nothing feels worse than being far away from God. You don’t even know that’s what’s wrong until you come back to Him. God pleads for you to come to Him.**

*“The book of Joel is like an atom bomb—not very big, but potent and powerful. Don’t ask me why God does it this way—ask Him. I don’t know and you don’t either. God doesn’t turn in a report at the end of the week to get our approval on what He’s been doing. We don’t have to like it; we are in His world.”* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee



### GOD’S PURPOSES IN JOEL:

He wants to fix what is broken in you (2:25).  
His discipline opens the door to hope—beyond where you could ever go on your own.

*... Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved ....* —Joel 2:32



# I Love to Tell *the Story*

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, then you love to tell the story of His love and grace in your own way. Here are how the people you sit with on the Bible Bus are telling theirs . . .

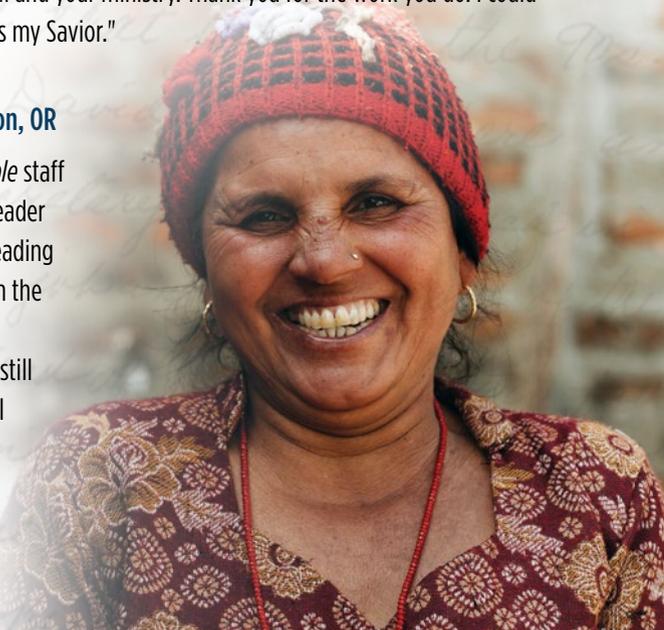
## HOW ARE YOU TELLING THE STORY OF JESUS AND HIS LOVE?

### MARIANNE CHRISTINE | Jessheim, Norway

"I have been listening to *Thru the Bible* since 2016. First on the radio, and now on your app and on the internet. McGee is a great blessing to me and has helped me to grow as a Christian. I have been lifted up in troubled times. I am the only professing Christian in my family. McGee is one of my absolute favorite teachers of the Word of God. May God, in Christ Jesus, richly bless you all and your ministry. Thank you for the work you do. I could not live without Jesus Christ as my Savior."

### JACKIE | Now in Beaverton, OR

"I was part of the *Thru the Bible* staff beginning in 1971 as a letter-reader for 20 years. I never tired of reading letters from listeners. Being on the  **WorldPrayerToday** team makes me feel like I am still part of the staff. I marvel at all God is doing through His Word and this broadcast! Praise the Lord!"



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