

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

**PUT YOUR ENTIRE LIFE
BEHIND YOUR WORDS—**

**THAT'S WHAT MAKES
PRAYER EFFECTIVE.**

J. VERNON MCGEE



THRUthe**BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



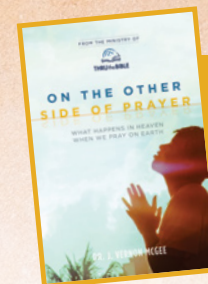
A PARABLE SNAPSHOT ON PRAYER

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

In the Gospel of Luke, our Lord uses a few brushstrokes to paint four portraits of prayer. They are simply snapshots to carry with you in your Christian walk. Put these snapshots together for a composite picture of prayer. Here's one of the pictures.

THE PARABLE OF FATHERHOOD

In Luke 18:1, the Lord talked about how to live by faith in the last days. They're difficult days, He said, when people's hearts fail them for fear. This makes prayer all the more relevant for this hour. Jesus then told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not become discouraged. He told a lot of parables, stories with a divine purpose. I believe Jesus never told a fictitious story when teaching a parable. When He told a story, the people knew exactly the situation He was talking about.



Learn more in Dr. McGee's digital booklet, "On the Other Side of Prayer." Download it here.

One day, Jesus was teaching and told the parable of fatherhood.

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? –Luke 11:11, 12

Jesus looked around at the crowd assembled that day and saw many fathers. He said, "You there, you're a father. If your boy came to you and asked for bread, would you give him a stone?" Of course, no father would do that. So where did we get the idea we are better than God? If earthly fathers want to be good to their children, don't you know the One who put a parent's heart in us has Himself a father's heart? When you go to Him, you can expect Him to do the very best thing for you.

Before the Day of Pentecost, our Lord stated it this way:

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! –Luke 11:13

The highest gift any person can receive is the Holy Spirit. Writing to the Corinthians—and they were carnal folk—Paul said,

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? –1 Corinthians 6:19

Everyone who trusts Christ—that is, becomes a child of God—is *indwelt* by the Spirit of God today. He dwells *within* us! This wonderful transaction began in believers on the Day of Pentecost. And in order for the Holy Spirit to come and indwell every believer, God had to *give His own Son to die* for us.

God today has already done for you the best He possibly can do.

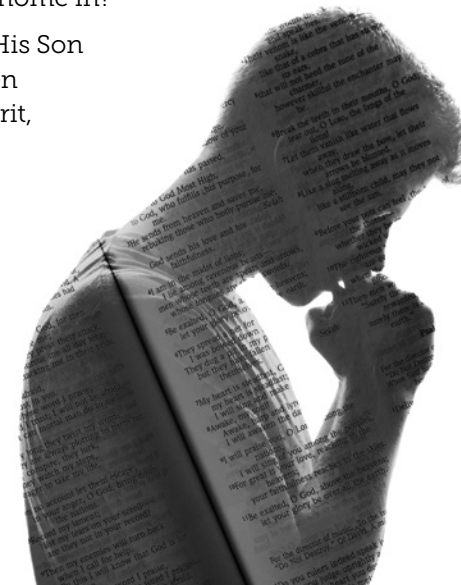
To the Romans Paul said again,

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? –Romans 8:32

He will give us *all* things that are needful in our Christian life. He didn't say He would give you everything you want, but everything you need.

Dwight L. Moody, in his inimitable way, used to illustrate this verse by imagining he went to Tiffany's in New York, and Mr. Tiffany himself gifted him with the biggest diamond he had, saying, "Take it, it's yours!" He'd close his illustration by asking, "Do you think if he gave me that diamond I would hesitate to ask him for a little piece of brown wrapping paper to take it home in?"

Listen, my friend, if God gave His Son to die for you—and now has given you the highest gift, the Holy Spirit, to indwell you—do you think He will withhold from you any good thing? No! He has already done the best. He will not withhold from you any good thing. Do you believe that? Not many Christians do. But if you are His child, He will do for you the very best He can. And the best He can do is *the best!*



» MY TURN

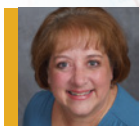
7 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PRAYER LIFE

- 1 Is God your heavenly Father? | John 1:12
- 2 Have you talked with Him today? | Mark 1:35
- 3 Do you believe God hears you? | Psalm 116:1-2; James 1:6
- 4 Is there anything between you and God that might hinder your conversation? | 1 John 1:9
- 5 Do you think your prayers make any difference? | James 5:16
- 6 Do you want God's will to be done more than your prayer to be answered "yes"? | Matthew 6:9-12
- 7 Are you willing to trust Him if His answer is "no" or "not now"? | Romans 8:28

CRAVE HIS COMPANY MORE THAN YOUR ANSWERS.



THE RED THREAD OF THE GOSPEL



Barb Peil, VP of Communications, *Thru the Bible*

Look in the back of your Bible and you likely will see several maps labeled “The Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul.” As a kid, I loved to study where Paul walked and sailed and taught. I imagined the conversations he had along the way.

In reality, those maps traced the miracle of how the gospel traveled down Roman roads to reach everyone in the known world. Likely tens of thousands believed, their impact spreading out from these cities like ripples of water on a pond.

Today, picture another map—our world this time, larger than Paul’s but smaller by the minute. Every morning when I read the World Prayer Team email, I find the country and put a red dot there. This month, after 11 months traveling on our knees just in 2020, we’ve covered the globe in red dots. As we pray, we are asking the Lord to use us to take His whole Word to the whole world.

Now imagine that map tracing the travels of *Thru the Bible* in red threads over the whole globe. The continuing story of Jesus is now accessible to everyone who wants it.

125 times every hour around the clock, another region tunes in to their version of “How Firm a Foundation.” In each outlet, “stadiums of people” gather around God’s Word, delivered in the language that speaks best to their hearts.

Can you picture what *that* map looks like? Lines and arrows in literally every direction. The earth red with crisscrosses, each taking the message of the Cross to someone dying to hear it.

You can read about those first missionary journeys in the book of Acts. Acts is often called “Luke’s Gospel—Part 2” because Luke continued his account of Jesus’ earthly ministry (in the Gospel) next to how His Spirit moved to the world (Acts).

You have to wonder ... could Luke be writing his third book right now? Capturing stories of how the gospel continued to spread from the 2nd century till when Jesus comes back? Dr. McGee whimsically wondered as much, too.

Here’s why that’s not such a crazy idea. Do a word study on “former” in Acts 1:1 (KJV) and you’ll learn the word is *protos*, normally translated “first” and implying the first of three or more. Luke could have chosen another word for “former” (of two), but didn’t. Could Luke have been hinting an “Acts—Part 2” will be available someday to download from our heavenly portal?

That book would be filled with all the stories of how people met Jesus and grew to be like Him. I’d like to have my name in *that* book—in your company, of course. Our partnership in the gospel could appear in the section, “What God did in the 21st century.”

God’s entire story continues to weave together in an integrated, crisscross way—taking the message of Jesus to everyone who will listen. It’s happening this moment.

Thanks for your partnership in telling the story—and also for being part of the story until Jesus comes back for us.



WELCOME A NEW BROTHER IN YEMEN

... I looked, and behold, 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, with palm branches in their hands. –Revelation 7:9

As believers, this is one of the many glorious moments we have ahead of us. Thanks for praying that more listeners of *Thru the Bible* will join us. Today as we travel through Yemen, let's rejoice and welcome this new brother to the family of God—

"I now understand that the Word of God is true. I'm continuously amazed by Jesus' sacrifice and have asked for Him to accept me and forgive me. Please pray for me and help me to stay close to God."

As one of the least evangelized countries on earth, following Jesus in Yemen is difficult. Fewer than 1% of the people are Christians, and those who are discovered face intense persecution.

Today ask God to increase their numbers and give them the ability to worship freely, grow closer to God, and mature in their faith so as we stand before the throne described in Revelation 7:9, a great number of Yemenis are with us.

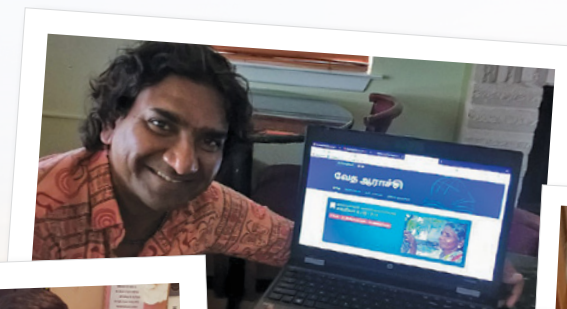
This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we are traveling the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. We invite you to join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY
TO SIGN UP.**

What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE

From the Bible Bus Photo Album

Browse the album at TTB.org/BibleBus and send your own photo to BibleBus@TTB.org.



Beautiful Feet

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

—Romans 10:14-15

In our study of Romans, we hear Dr. McGee share:

“We’re told that the feet of those who bear glad tidings are beautiful. One day I was teaching on *Thru the Bible* in my bare feet. I looked down at them and concluded they are not so beautiful. But God calls the feet of His sent-messengers ‘beautiful.’ I love the opportunities provided by radio today to share glad tidings. We can scale mountains, go over the plains, reach over the vast expanses of water, and go into the inner recesses of the earth with the gospel. We can go into homes, automobiles, and places of business. We’ve even been in barrooms with the gospel by radio. Radio is a marvelous way of getting God’s Word to the ends of the world on our feet the Lord calls beautiful!”

Well, Dr. McGee couldn’t have imagined where our beautiful feet have taken us in these decades since he’s been home. Let’s continue walking out the gospel until Jesus comes back for us.

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris
Thru the Bible, President

WHY STUDY ZECHARIAH?

Join in the studies on
Thru the Bible **OCTOBER 23 –**
DECEMBER 9 or anytime online,
by podcast, or by mobile app.

Remember how Israel was in captivity for 70 years in Babylon? Zechariah was probably born in those years and, as a young man, traveled back to the land with Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple. He wrote to motivate people to invest in God’s plan and program that extends far into the future.

“Allow me to make an application for us today. Are you working in something that has eternal value? What value will it have ten years from today? A hundred years from today? A million years from today? Work in the light of eternity, friends.” —J. Vernon McGee

KEYVERSE

*This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,”
says the LORD of hosts.* —Zechariah 4:6

A MESSIAH IS COMING!

- **Zechariah says more about Jesus Christ, His work, and His glory than all the other minor prophets combined** (3:8-9; 6:12-13; 9:9-10,14; 11:12-13; 13:7; 14:4, 9, 16).
- **Like Daniel, Zechariah gives a panoramic view of Israel’s future among the Gentiles.** His sights are on Israel’s future into prophecy more than any other book.
- **Zechariah and Haggai write to the same people at the same time.** But Haggai was on his knees measuring the foundation of the temple, and Zechariah had his head in the air, filled with heavenly visions.



Jesus likely was talking about Zechariah in Matthew 23:35 when He mentions a priest-prophet who was murdered in the temple.

Next to the last book, Zechariah’s prophecy practically closes the Old Testament—and the New Testament opens chronologically with Luke’s account of another Zacharias (meaning “Jehovah remembers”) and his wife Elisabeth (meaning “His oath”).

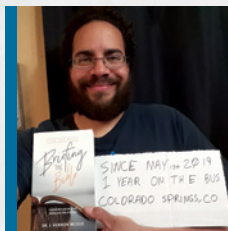
I Love to Tell *the Story*

LETTERS FROM HOME

On the recent sermons on Jonah, I did have to laugh and my eyes moistened at Dr. McGee's comments on talking to his dog. Yes, many a dad has had to move on to a new era in life, when a man comes and takes the hand of their daughter. And yes, I do talk to our dog, too. The nice thing is, the dog's deaf, so he just sits and smiles at me, and appreciates my company, as I do his. I've been on the Bible Bus, with a few off and on stops here and there, starting in 1985. I enjoy Dr. McGee and the fine people who make it possible to remind me that Jesus loves us and died for our sins. And He will return and gather us together with Him someday ... soon.

From

Prentiss



I have not been on the Bible Bus for very long, but TTB has touched me in many ways. I didn't even know how to describe how God was working in my life until I heard a fellow rider describe it in their letter. I listened to the entire 5-year study in under 8 months on my first trip *Thru the Bible*, and I am looking forward to many more trips. Today I ordered the Bible Bus

thumb drive and sent a little gas money to help keep the Bible Bus rolling. I wish I could have sent more as I have received so much from this ministry. It was just a couple weeks ago that I discovered my teacher had gone home to heaven when I was 7 years old. I always feel like I am having a conversation with my grandfather when I am listening. I have never been particularly good at praying, but by listening every day I am working on it.

Your friend and fellow passenger on the Bible Bus,

Mark



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