

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

ONLY FAITH IN CHRIST  
CAN SAVE YOU -

*faith plus nothing.*

THAT'S THE EQUATION

*for salvation.*

J. VERNON MCGEE



**THRU**the**BIBLE**



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

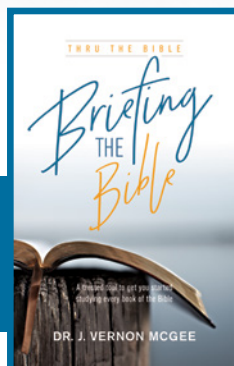
## THE ONLY WAY TO PLEASE GOD

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

The day God saves you, He makes you His child and you are brought into the family of God as a full-grown heir.

That truth may not mean anything to you, but it means everything to me. I left for seminary with an awful inferiority complex. I was not brought up in a Christian home where I saw a Bible or heard a prayer—I knew nothing. When I got to seminary, I compared myself to the other fellows who knew it all. They knew the Bible, could quote verses, and they were very pious too. I didn't even know the books of the Bible, and it disturbed me. So I began to learn the books of the Bible.

**Dr. McGee wrote the book, *Briefing the Bible*, with outlines of every book of the Bible because he was determined to help others know every book of God's Word.** Get your copy at [TTB.org/briefing](http://TTB.org/briefing).



Then one day someone set me straight. I was not an inferior Christian but a full-grown son. Anything any mature saint could understand in the Word of God, I could understand because that mature saint needed the Holy Spirit to teach him just as much as I did. That was a tremendous revelation to me and a great comfort in those early days.

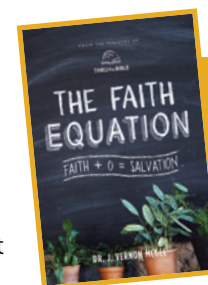
You become a child of God only through faith in Jesus Christ. This is the only way:

*He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who [do no more nor less than simply] believe in His name.* —John 1:11, 12

God brings us in as full-grown heirs so we can understand spiritual truth. If you don't understand it, it is your fault because He has made every arrangement for you! To me the greatest tragedy in our churches today is the number of Bible illiterates that fill the pews who are not able to find their way around the Bible in spite of how available it is to them.

*But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* —1 Corinthians 2:9

This verse is often used at funerals with the idea that greater things are ahead. That truth is in the Bible (see 1 Corinthians 13:12)—but this is not what 1 Corinthians 2:9 is saying. God wants us to understand spiritual truths down here because "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:10). Most of our learning comes through the ear-gate (what we hear) and the eye-gate (what we see).



Learn more in Dr. McGee's digital booklet, "The Faith Equation." Download your copy here.



That is how we learn today. But if we are going to get divine truth, then we will only get it because of His Spirit teaching it to us through our heart-gate.

*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God .... But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* —1 Corinthians 2:10, 14

As we grow in our faith and knowledge of God's Word, God gives us an experience with Him.

Many of us tend to play down experience. However, a sadness has come over the saints today. Many need to have the experience of the Spirit of God making real in their lives the fact they are sons of God. In spite of circumstances, they are still a child of God.

*And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"* —Galatians 4:6

This word *Abba* was not translated. The translators (very wisely, I think) did not attempt to put it into English. It is too personal. It means "my daddy," and you don't talk that way about God, friend, regardless of how intimate you try to get with Him. He is high and holy. But the *Spirit of God* can do that. God's Spirit whispers the Father's nearness to the child of God.

My friend, in times of heartache, God will make Himself real to you.



When I was told I had cancer, I went to the hospital and lay down in a bed. As a pastor, I'd gone countless times to hospitals to visit my church people. I prayed with them and told them, "God will be with you." And then I would walk out.

But that day, I had to stay there. I will never forget when a preacher friend came to visit me that first evening. I appreciated his wonderful prayer over me. Then he got up and left. But this time I was not walking out—I had to stay there. So I rolled over with my face to the wall and said, "Lord, I've been in this hospital a hundred times, and I've told everybody else to trust You. Now I want to know whether that's real or not." I want to testify to this, friend: He became real. Multitudes of people have had the same experience.

My friend, He gives the *experience* of being His child. The Law cannot give that to you, only faith in Christ can give it to you. This message is not milk for a baby Christian; this is meat.

You need to know in this hour that it is only faith in Christ that can save you—faith plus *nothing*. That's the equation for salvation.

## » MY TURN

**"LET THE FACTS ABOUT GOD DRIVE YOUR TRAIN, AND YOUR FEELINGS WILL FOLLOW LIKE A GREAT CABOOSE."** —J. Vernon McGee

- 1 We all struggle to keep our walk with God in proper order: Faith in Jesus. Facts from His Word. Feelings about our experience. Very easily, the priority gets reversed.**

What has your experience been when feelings drive your train? How can you signal yourself to change engines the next time that happens?

**BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR HE WHO COMES TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.** —Hebrews 11:6

- 2 Ponder Hebrews 11:6—and if you have five more minutes, read the whole chapter.**

How are you pleasing God today by what you think about and what you do? Put your confidence in God a little more every day.

## INTO WAR-TORN AFRICA



Ray Alary, *Thru the Bible*-Canada Executive Director

It is a trip I will never forget: Angola on the west coast of southern Africa. A war that had stretched over 20 years had just ended, and it was our first trip into the country's interior. God wanted to make sure we would never forget it.

The roads into the interior were at times impassable. Our journey of 60 miles took over six hours. We arrived at our first stop very late, just as it was getting dark. "We'll delay the service until morning," we thought.

"No way," the leaders said. "People have been waiting many hours for you to arrive. We will have a service tonight and another one in the morning."

Traveling with us was Pastor Denis, the producer of the African Portuguese and Umbundu *Thru the Bible* programs. The crowd had heard him on the radio, and now they were here to meet him in person!

In the services, many shared stories of how *Thru the Bible* had impacted them. "All through the war when the country was in turmoil, *Thru the Bible* has been our anchor," many said.

This village was in the middle of nowhere. No running water, no electricity. Their only connection with the outside world was through a radio.



In the first village we visited, people waited all day for our arrival.



In the second village, the man on the left walked five hours through the night (arriving at 5 AM) to be at the *Thru the Bible* gathering. Pastor Denis, producer, is on the right.

In this isolated village in the jungle, God's Word had been heard loud and clear. Even though most had little or no education, the people were grounded in the Word of God. If we had just gone to this one village, that would have been enough for me. But God had more to show us.

Our next stop in the interior was to a village a little more developed, but still no electricity or running water. In this village we met in a church. Many had heard on the radio that we would be there and walked 20 miles or more just to meet Pastor Denis and to be blessed by the Bible training he would do over the next couple of days.

One young man we met had been faithfully listening to *Thru the Bible* in search of the truth. He asked Pastor Denis many questions, but at the end of the day went away very sad.

We were surprised to see him the second day. And even more surprised when we saw him smiling from ear to ear. He couldn't even sit still. Pastor Denis asked him if he had something to share, and that one question opened the flood gates.

"I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior," he said. "I am a new creation, and I want to serve my Savior however God calls me to."

This one man had a huge impact on me. I often look at the "before" and "after" pictures of him because it shows clearly the impact the gospel has on us. This trip happened several years ago, but the gospel continues to impact people—another one today in another part of the world.

Together with *Thru the Bible*, we can bring that message of life and hope to someone who would be lost without it.





## PRAYING FOR OUTCASTS IN TURKEY

*Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble. —Proverbs 3:34*

"I grew up poor, in a family shamed by society. I was told God did not love people like us," Zin, a listener of *Thru the Bible's* broadcasts in Turkey says.

"I am 26 years old. My family are Gypsies and have always been shunned. Our skin color and lifestyle disturbed those we met. For a living, our family picked items from the garbage and sold them. As a child, I began to feel like garbage myself.

"One day I was listening to your program by accident. You were talking about the love of Jesus. At first, I thought you were talking to selected and rich people. Although I was sure God could never love me, I began to listen regularly. Soon I began to think Jesus was like me. He was homeless, poor, and many people didn't love Him. I decided to become a follower of Him.

"My life began to change after that. I became confident, and although there were still

problems, I didn't feel defeated. Thank you for your programs that give hope and lead to new life. I thank God for the eternal life he has given me, but I also thank Him for the confidence He has given me to live a new life on earth as well. Please pray for my family and others who are outcasts. May God's Word save them, too."

As we pray today, let's remember Proverbs 3:34 and thank God for His grace and love for all those humbled by discrimination. Like Zin, may they too find life as they trust in Jesus Christ.

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

### Meet Veteran Missionary, Ray Alary



**Ray and Sandy** have been married for 43 years—  
"The same number of years I've known Jesus Christ  
as my Savior. Sandy introduced me to Him."

We're glad to welcome **Ray Alary** to *Thru the Bible* as Executive Director of TTB-Canada and Special Assistant to the President. As a veteran missionary, Ray has invested his entire career getting God's Word out and has served *Thru the Bible* since 1993 through our ministry partnership with TWR.

"In these 27 years of working with *Thru the Bible*, I've seen more people come into the kingdom than through any other ministry effort. But we can't just evangelize, we must disciple, and no other system will lead the church systematically through the Word of God better than *Thru the Bible*. It changes lives; it gives hope."

### About Ray's missionary impact over the years

- ✓ **Served with TWR for 32 years** in more than 70 countries
- ✓ **13 years in Africa** (in 32 countries)
- ✓ **Flown over 2 million miles**
- ✓ **9 years in majority countries** in Latin America and 12 Caribbean countries

"I have done everything from fixing peoples' plugged toilets, pouring cement, building radio towers, working on diesel equipment, to being in executive leadership of TWR-Canada. Now I'm excited to provide oversight for all TTB Home Group projects and ministry efforts in Europe."



**How can we pray for you, Ray?** Pray that my service with *Thru the Bible* will allow many more to hear the truth that sets you free.

## A Matter of Faith

Dr. McGee explains well the critical priority of faith in Jesus Christ in our opening article (see pages 2-5). Apart from putting our full confidence in what Jesus Christ did on the cross for each of us, we have no starting line with God.

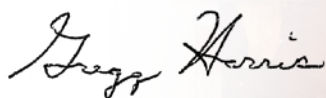
**“Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him,”** Hebrews 11:6 tells us.

So where does faith come from? And how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? (Recognize Romans 10:17? “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”)

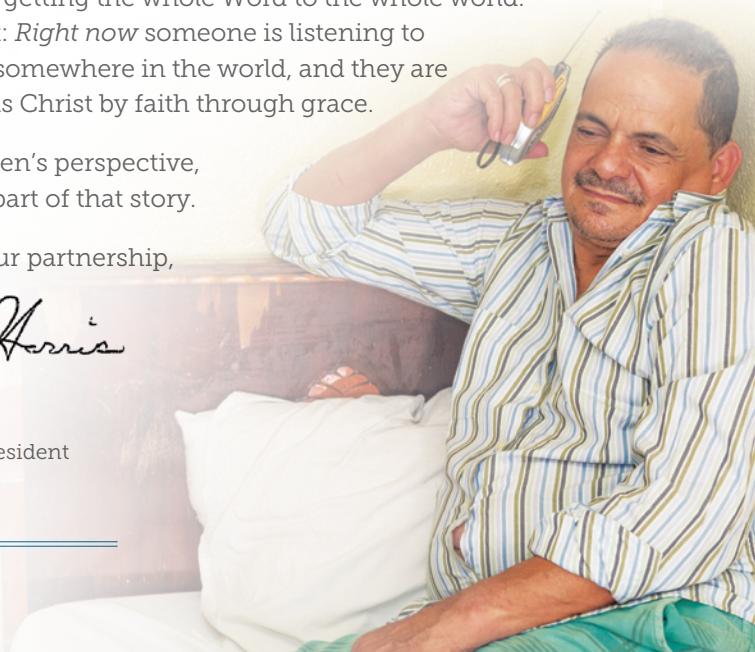
The faith chain is all God's doing, but He chooses to use us in the process. Thank you for being a part of this magnificent work of God in getting the whole Word to the whole world. I'm certain of it: *Right now* someone is listening to *Thru the Bible* somewhere in the world, and they are turning to Jesus Christ by faith through grace.

And from heaven's perspective, we get to be a part of that story.

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris  
Thru the Bible, President



## WHY STUDY ZEPHANIAH & HAGGAI?

Join in the studies on  
*Thru the Bible*—Zephaniah airs  
SEPTEMBER 15-23 & Haggai airs  
OCTOBER 12-22—or anytime online,  
by podcast, or by mobile app.

### ZEPHANIAH

The little prophecy of Zephaniah presents the dark side of God's love. God is glorified in judging as well as He is glorified in saving. As the last of the writing prophets before the captivity, he directs our attention to a future “Day of the Lord.”

*“It might be difficult to believe, but Zephaniah has the same theme as the Gospel of John. John is called the apostle of love. Zephaniah is the prophet of love.”* —J. Vernon McGee

God writes in letters of light the wonderful gospel story for you and me against the black background of our sin.

### KEY VERSE

*The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*  
—Zephaniah 3:17

### HAPPENING WITH ZEPHANIAH:

- Josiah and the great revival (2 Chronicles 34-35, a great read!)
- Jeremiah's lament over Israel

### 70 YEARS OF CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON AS PRISONERS OF WAR

### HAGGAI

As a priest leading a remnant of Israel back to their land after 70 years as POW's, Haggai is all about rebuilding the temple. As a “get it done” guy, he drove people on and cheered their work. No prophet ever preached more directly or earnestly to his people; the result was great victory.

### ABOUT HAGGAI:

- He made much of the Lord
- He preached and also practiced
- He was God's messenger

### KEY VERSE

*Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, “I am with you, says the LORD.”* —Haggai 1:13





# I Love to Tell *the Story*

## *From Africa,* **WITH LOVE**

**From Benin:** “I am very happy to be one of *Thru the Bible’s* listeners in Fongbe! God’s Word helps me face some big challenges in my life. Three weeks ago, my sister was seriously sick. Her situation was declared untreatable. Some while ago, I learned on this program that Jesus sometimes heals us physically and we should ask for His help and for His will to be done. My family called on the name of Jesus, asking for healing of our baby sister, and some hours later her pain stopped. **I am not only joyful for what happened but also grateful to God for what He did that day in my heart. This miracle has been possible because of the truth about God I hear from you.**”

**From Nigeria:** “I am a nurse in a hospital experiencing a great crisis. I worry about what will happen to my patients if the hospital closes. I pray with them and even play *Thru the Bible* by their bedside. I tell them God is in control, but I still worry what will happen. Some of them have declared faith in Jesus Christ as a result. Please pray for their health and that the hospital will remain open.”

**From Mozambique:** “I am a single mother with five children. Two of my children live on the streets. I give thanks to God because the three girls are safe at home, studying despite many difficulties. **We listen to the *Thru the Bible* African Portuguese program every day. It is the spiritual hub in our home. Thank you for the Word of God. Please pray for us.**”



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