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

*Fear God
so much
that you fear
no one else.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the **BIBLE**



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

OUR SURE FOUNDATION



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This excerpt is from our
2 Peter Bible Companion,
Download a free copy at [TTB.org/2Peter](https://www.TTB.org/2Peter)
or buy a print copy at [store.TTB.org](https://www.store.TTB.org).

... Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. –2 Peter 1:5-7

Do you ever wonder if God is at work in your life? Peter listed here the path of maturity. Knowing that he wouldn't be with them very much longer, Peter felt called to stir up these saints to grow in grace, so as not to allow spiritual senility to set in. As long as he had life, Peter was going to remind them of these important things—beginning with the trustworthiness of the Word of God. We have an authority on which we can depend. "How do we know the Bible is really the Word of God?" Peter addresses that: "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."



The Bible is not a fairy tale or a myth—it’s historical and factual. If you study it sincerely, God will make it real to you. If there is a veil over your eyes, it isn’t because you are mentally blind but because you don’t want to give up your sins. When you’re willing to do that, God will make the Bible real to you.

God’s Word is like a light shining from a dark place—it’s a certain word of truth because it’s the spoken Word of God. The prophets didn’t just take dictation from God; rather, they expressed their own feelings and thoughts. Nevertheless, God was able to transmit His complete will and word through the men who wrote Scripture. This is what makes it a miraculous book. The Word of God is not only divine; it is very human.

The Lord Jesus is both God and man. And the Bible is both a God-book and a man-book. It deals with human life, right down where we live and move and have our being, yet it is God speaking to man in a language that is understandable to us.

Many people think, “I wish I could have been with Peter and seen those things.” But we have something even better. We have the whole Word of God. It will speak directly to you if you will open your heart and allow it to speak. The Word of God is better than seeing and hearing.

As the sun gives out its light, throwing it out to the universe, so the Word of God sends out a light, a force, and a power. It is the only tangible supernatural thing we have in this world today. The Word of God is the only physical miracle that we have from God in this hour, drawing men away from the world system and putting them into the arms of God. He teaches us the truth of His Word through the Holy Spirit who makes them real to us.

The Bible has a whole message, with collaborating messages. No portion can be interpreted apart from other verses on the same subject. (This is why you shouldn't pull a verse of Scripture out of context and build a doctrine on it. If you can't get the whole body of Scripture to confirm your doctrine, then get a new doctrine.) The human writers of Scripture didn't just think up what they wanted to say. They were "moved" by the Holy Spirit, which means "moved along like a sailing vessel is moved by the wind." The Spirit of God inspired these men who were set apart by God to be His instruments in writing Scripture. This is the same thought as what Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" God took each writer and used him, without changing his style or interfering

It's time to celebrate!

LET'S JOIN AS THE BODY OF CHRIST
IN HONORING THE GLORIOUS REALITY THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED.

*Our hope and joy are secure
in Him who conquered death
and is alive today.*

Happy Easter
FROM THRU THE BIBLE



with his personality, to write His Word so that His message comes across. If God spoke out of heaven today, He would have to repeat Himself, because He already has said all that He has to say to mankind. God gets His Word to us through men of different personalities and different skills. For this reason this is a man-book and a God-book.

The written Word, like the Lord Jesus, the living Word, is both human and divine. The Lord Jesus could weep at a grave, but He could also raise the dead. He could sit down at a well because He was tired and thirsty, but He could also give the water of life to a poor sinner. He could go to sleep in a boat, but He could also still the storm. He was a man, but He was God also. And the Bible is both human and divine.

The Bible is a solid rock under our feet. We can have confidence that it is true and trustworthy. No wonder the Word of God has been attacked more than anything else. If the enemy can get rid of the foundation, he knows the building will come crashing down.

The Bible is a solid foundation on which we can rest our faith.



MY TURN

- ① God's Word is only valuable to us if it is part of our lives. **What things prevent you from being in God's Word more?**
- ② **What does it tell us about our God that He used so many different people of different backgrounds and personalities to write His Word?**
- ③ You are probably surrounded by people willing to tell you that you can't trust the Bible, but Peter says it can be trusted. **Why should you believe Peter?**
- ④ The pressure to lose faith in God's Word is real today, but it was just as real for the Jewish Christians of the first century. **What pressures can you imagine were on the early church to abandon the faith?**

IT TAKES A TEAM

MEET THE HUMAN NETWORK
BEHIND THRU THE BIBLE'S
SATELLITE-TV MINISTRY



Nathan Bugbee
THRU the BIBLE Director of Operations

Nathan with Bashar Abdo of Endure, Hany Monir, and TTB president Gregg Harris.

“Do you face any oppression or persecution for your faith from the Egyptian government?”

Magdy reads my question on his phone as Google Translate transforms my English words into Arabic. He shifts in his chair as we chat in the hotel lobby near the Old City of Istanbul. He doesn't respond—not while the mic on his phone is listening. Instead, he turns to Hany, a fellow Egyptian brother and the producer of TTB's satellite-TV programs. **Magdy speaks to Hany in Arabic and Hany relays Magdy's meaning to me in English: “It's not safe for him to answer on the phone.”**

THRU the BIBLE's venture into television began in Arabic and is now produced in 7 languages:

- ✓ Arabic
- ✓ Armenian
- ✓ Farsi (Persian)
- ✓ French
- ✓ Indonesian
- ✓ Turkish
- ✓ Urdu

Why were Magdy and I in Istanbul? He was there for Endure International's “follow-up training” and I was there to meet the team and learn everything I could about Endure's ministry to the Muslim world.

THRU the BIBLE relies on ministry partners like Endure to provide the essential human connection with those impacted by TTB's teaching. Follow-up teams are able to answer questions about the program, draw out people's hearts, clarify and articulate the gospel, and, where possible and safe, connect people with Christian community or local churches.



Nathan with members of Endure leadership and the dedicated men and women of the follow-up team who serve THRU the BIBLE viewers.

Endure's follow-up team interacts specifically with viewers of TTB's satellite-TV programs over various channels, including social media, email, and phone. They aim to not only answer questions and respond to comments from TTB's audience but also to evangelize and disciple those reaching out.

At THRU the BIBLE, we hear much about Christian brothers and sisters abroad who are faithful to the Lord within oppressive contexts. It's one thing to hear their stories from afar, and it's another to share a meal with them, laugh with them, and hear their hearts. During my visit to Istanbul, I had the privilege to sit with and befriend brothers and sisters in Christ whose hearts are for those lost in darkness in hostile places. **They long to see Muslims come to know true freedom and forgiveness through the gospel of Jesus Christ in places like Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and countries in French-speaking Africa.**

What strikes me about the follow-up team is that they are "ministry people." They want to be used by God to reach others. Their role on the follow-up team for Endure International is not merely a job, but an extension of a life characterized by gospel faithfulness.

These are the kinds of people THRU the BIBLE depends on to connect with souls on a human level as God's Word is taught abroad. **People who don't merely claim Christ, but who sacrificially give of their time and energy to help others come to know, love, and follow Christ for themselves.**

In this way, many souls are being reached with the good news of Jesus Christ as the whole Word goes to the whole world.

J E S U S I N

Amos

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

A WORTHY OFFERING

In Amos' day, Israel was coming to worship God, but they did it their way. They made two offerings—the first was to be an unleavened bread offering. Leaven was forbidden by God (see Leviticus 7); it represented evil or wrong doctrine and evil living.

The first offering represented the Godward side of our relationship. **For us today, the Lord Jesus Christ made peace with God by His sacrifice for us** (see Romans 5:1). No sin (leaven) was in this first offering.

The second offering represents the manward side; the one who is bringing the sacrifice of thanksgiving offers *himself* to God. This sacrifice includes leaven. When we dedicate our lives to the Lord, we say that we intend to set our lives apart. We want to be holy, though in truth, we never can be perfect before God. We will always contain some “leaven.”

Amos calls the people of Israel out on bringing their leaven to God in both offerings. They simply didn't care, since they were removed from the living and true God, and can only offer evil to God. Of course, God won't accept their sacrifice. But the people offer it only as a *show* of godliness, not because they care about what God requires.

Amos says in effect, *“You're coming to Bethel to sin, not to worship God!”*

Next Sunday, before you leave for church, it might be well to first get down on your knees and ask God about the condition of your heart. Will you be taking a clean heart to church? Will you be taking lips that will not speak anything to hurt the cause of Christ?

We need ministers like Amos today. Too many pastors only give nice messages on how to solve personal problems. Somebody needs to say something very strong about *sin* in our hearts.

Sin in our lives is our biggest problem to overcome. We can't cover it up. We need to get our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ straightened out. Only then will God receive our offering.



WHY STUDY AMOS?

On air **APRIL 8-29** or
anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

Amos was an ordinary guy from a small town outside of Jerusalem. He wasn't famous or well-spoken; he tended sheep and picked figs. But God used him because he was willing to do what He asked.

Amos was a country preacher marching into a sophisticated, suave culture at the height of its prosperity to warn them that unless they turn back to God, they're going to lose it all. But no one wanted to listen to his doom and gloom. (Sound familiar?)

"We need ministers like Amos today. Too many pastors only give nice messages on how to solve personal problems. Somebody needs to say something very strong about sin in our hearts. Sin in our lives is our biggest problem." –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

WE LEARN FROM AMOS TO FEAR GOD SO MUCH THAT WE FEAR NO ONE ELSE.

KEY VERSE

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." –Amos 8:11

FAST FACTS ABOUT AMOS:

- His message was a lot like Elijah and John the Baptist—
"judgment is coming if you don't turn back to God today."
- He lived at the same time as Hosea. There's a good chance that as a boy, Amos knew the prophets Jonah and Elisha. And when Amos' ministry was coming to an end, Isaiah and Micah arrived on the scene.
- Amos was a nobody who spoke for God in the palaces of kings. He wasn't afraid to say that God was bigger and more powerful than they were.
- Even as a country preacher, Amos had a global view of God. He saw God as the ruler of the world and declared that all nations were responsible to Him.





A Light in 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 towards 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).

I am grateful for your partnership in the gospel this month. Let's keep at it till Jesus returns.

Keep shining,



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



WHY STUDY 2 PETER?

On air **APRIL 30–MAY 19**
or anytime online, by podcast,
or by mobile app.

Second Peter is Peter's swan song. He writes it from prison in A.D. 67, right before he is executed. As a loving pastor, Peter entrusts to his readers what they'll need to know to make it through the tough times ahead. He gives them the knowledge of God's Word.

"Second Peter is one of the finest shields given to us to ward off the darts the wicked one shoots at us." –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

KEY VERSE

The Christian life is more than just a birth. It is a growth, and it is a development. The key to this entire epistle is the last verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.* –2 Peter 3:18

WHAT GROWING IN GRACE LOOKS LIKE FROM 2 PETER 1:5-7:

- ✔ Make every effort to add to your faith—**virtue**
- ✔ And to virtue—**knowledge**
- ✔ And to knowledge—**self-control**
- ✔ And to self-control—**perseverance**
- ✔ And to perseverance—**godliness**
- ✔ And to godliness—**brotherly kindness**
- ✔ And to brotherly kindness—**love**

TEACHING POINTS IN 2 PETER:

- What you believe **determines how you live.**
- **You can endure** tough times with Jesus.
- When you don't know what to believe, **trust the Holy Spirit to lead you to truth.**
- **God's Word** will stand the test.






STORIES FROM THE BIBLE BUS



كنوز الحكمة

VIEWERS IN AFGHANISTAN

-  “Through your Farsi programs, I have accepted Christ as my Savior. Despite ongoing challenges, my faith in Jesus serves as a light in the darkness. I now pray with confidence, trusting God to heal my children and provide for us **Although our lives are under constant threat, my hope and faith in Christ strengthen me to stand firm in the face of adversity.**”
-  “Every time I read the Bible and I come across a new problem, your teaching answers it before it is completely formed in my mind. **God’s Word is alive, and I am grateful to hear you explain it. Spiritual growth is achieved through serving others and following God’s Word Our actions and reactions should be an example for others. This behavior causes people to come to Christ. I know this because I have experienced it. I rarely have to tell people about Jesus—they ask first!**”
-  “I followed your programs and began to believe in Christ. Due to the difficult conditions, I kept my faith a secret, but my family found out about it. **Our conditions have never been good, but recently, because of a religious extremist group, the conditions have become worse. There is no house church. I am hoping to connect with other believers or find a place where I can worship freely. Please pray for me.**”



**LISTEN ON APRIL 23 AS GREGG HARRIS AND STEVE SHWETZ
SHARE MORE ABOUT OUR TV MINISTRY IN AFGHANISTAN**

and other sensitive areas. Get on the Bible Bus on your favorite Christian radio station, at **TTB.org**, or in our **app**.



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All Scripture is from the New King James Version
unless otherwise noted.



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