

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

YOU CANNOT BEAR YOUR  
BURDENS ON YOUR OWN—

**JESUS WILL BEAR THEM FOR YOU.**

IF YOU COME TO HIM,  
HE'LL GIVE YOU  
DELIVERANCE AND FREEDOM.

J. VERNON MCGEE



THRUtheBIBLE



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## FALSE FAITH WALKS AWAY

When our Lord began His ministry, He met a group of folks who expressed a faith that proved to be false:

*Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs [miracles] which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. –John 2:23-25*

Did He suspect them? He surely did. He knew their belief was not genuine because He “knew all men.” When a time of testing came for them, their faith proved false. Our Lord said to them later:

*“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. –John 6:64-66*

The ones who walked away couldn’t stand the test, so they left Him. Then our Lord turned to His own disciples and asked them, “Do you also want to go away?” Simon Peter, answering for them, replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). *Their* faith was genuine.

David’s faith was also tested. I imagine him as an old man reflecting back over his life. He remembered how God had led him. That’s when he wrote Psalm 23. Only a man who had been tested could write “the LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). An inexperienced man who knew nothing about life could not have written that statement. But David could, because his life and his faith had been tested in the fires of adversity.

## WHY GOD TESTS US

Does God test us? *But why?* That’s the question Dr. J. Vernon McGee answers in this excerpt from his booklet, “Tested and True: Lessons on Faith from God’s Classroom.”

God has put down certain guidelines that give us an idea of why He permits trouble to come. Here’s one of them.



Download the free digital booklet, “Tested and True: Lessons on Faith from God’s Classroom.”

## GOD ALLOWS TROUBLE TO PROVE THE GENUINENESS OF OUR FAITH

When ore is tested to prove it is gold or silver, the assayer puts a fire under it, pours acid on it, and then determines whether it is genuine.

Likewise, God puts faith to the test to prove it is genuine. As someone said, “The acid of grief tests the coin of belief.” When some hardship hits in your life, your faith will be put to the test. Will you trust God? Will you lean on Him rather than lean on your own understanding? Will you become sweeter or bitter? James said, “*knowing* that the testing of your faith...” God tests our faith that we might *know* it is genuine.

The Apostle Paul was also really tested. He was told from the beginning, when he was first called to follow the Lord, that he was going to be tested:

*But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."* –Acts 9:15, 16

Paul's faith was tested by the Lord. When he wrote to the Galatians he said:

*From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.* –Galatians 6:17

He was no young theological professor raising questions about the inspiration of Scripture and the reality of the Christian faith. He was a man who *knew*.

PRESSED OUT OF MEASURE AND PRESSED TO ALL LENGTH,

PRESSED SO INTENSELY IT **SEEMS BEYOND STRENGTH.**

PRESSED IN THE **BODY** AND PRESSED IN THE **SOUL,**

PRESSED IN THE **MIND TILL THE DARK SURGES ROLL.**

PRESSURE BY **FOES**, PRESSURE BY **FRIENDS,**

PRESSURE ON PRESSURE **TILL LIFE NEARLY ENDS.**

**BLESSED** PRESSURE, PRESSED INTO **KNOWING NO HELPER BUT GOD.**

PRESSED INTO **LOVING** THE STAFF AND THE ROD.

PRESSED INTO **LIBERTY** WHERE NOTHING CLINGS,

PRESSED INTO **FAITH** FOR IMPOSSIBLE THINGS.

PRESSED INTO **LIVING A LIFE IN THE LORD,**

PRESSED INTO **LIVING A CHRIST LIFE OUTPOURED.**

–Author unknown

My friend, if your faith is genuine, God will test you to prove it. The church today is filled with shallow and superficial saints. Why? Their faith has never been tested. I read a book by a brilliant theological professor. He was a clever fellow, but you couldn't help reading insecurity between the lines. I suspect it's because his faith had never been tested. He put his faith through all kinds of mental gymnastics and made it perform like a trained elephant. The only trouble with that is that faith is not a trained elephant, nor is it lived out on a mental trapeze. It must walk the streets of life in order to be real, my beloved. Faith must be tested; if it's not, then it is impossible to know for sure whether or not it is genuine.

We hear a lot from so-called intellectuals who question the Word of God. They raise all kinds of questions. Why? Their faith has never been tested. When your faith has been tested, you don't argue about it. Once a man has taken his ore to the assayer—it's been taken through the fire, the acid has been poured on it, and it's been beaten—do you think he'd waste even five minutes arguing with anybody about whether or not his ore is genuine? He *knows* it's genuine, because the test has been made.

My beloved, faith needs to be brought out of the ideal atmosphere and taken down to the streets where we live and move and have our being. God wants our faith to be tested in our lives. That is one of the reasons why He gives us an entrance exam of suffering or tragedy.

## » MY TURN

1

### Consider your life in Jesus.

When has the Lord tested your faith?

Is He testing it now?

How are you different as a result?

2

### Meditate on Hebrews 12:11.

Dr. McGee used the Amplified Version:

*For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems sad and painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness [right standing with God and a lifestyle and attitude that seeks conformity to God's will and purpose].*



# ARE YOU PRAYING FOR CHINA? HERE'S SOMETHING TO PRAISE ABOUT...

*Thru the Bible's* president, Gregg Harris, recently visited Hong Kong to investigate potential outlets for more ministry in China. Let's visit with him as he reflects on how God is at work.

## GREGG, YOU RECENTLY VISITED HONG KONG—WASN'T YOUR TRIP DURING THE RECENT RIOTS?

Yes, it was a time of tension and genuine concern. When I asked a key church leader based there, he said the government will wear the protesters out—"they'll never back down." This has relevance to our ministry in places controlled by governments.

## HOW SO?

In many parts of the world, governments are clamping down on free speech. In places like Russia, Iran, and China, politics will affect our ability to preach the gospel.

Some ministries that work in China aren't perceived as a Chinese ministry, so they're not as popular and governments are even more suspicious of them, but FEBC actually started broadcasting to China in the 1940s from *inside* the country. If you remember recent history, 1949 was the year of China's cultural revolution, when Mao Tse-tung expelled all foreign Protestant missionaries.

During the years China was closed to outside influence, missionary experts stated that about half of everyone who came to Christ first heard the gospel through radio—that's tens of millions of people. So we're very privileged to be working with FEBC. They mostly make their own programming, but they love *Thru the Bible's* content and mission and welcome us to join with them.

## INTRODUCE US TO THESE MINISTRY PARTNERS

I'm pictured here with **Raymond Lo** and **Ed Cannon**—great guys doing a great job. Raymond, Hong Kong's executive director, has served with FEBC for about 20 years. Ed is FEBC's president. The Hong Kong office is home base to their Chinese ministries in Canada, the U.S., Singapore, Taiwan, and of course, China.



## WHAT IF CHINA DOESN'T ALLOW CHRISTIAN PROGRAMMING ON THE RADIO?

That's a good question—and timely. We're talking right now about re-producing our Mandarin and Cantonese program. This is a big deal—1300 programs X 2 languages. But when you realize these programs are in the heart languages of 20% of the world's population, how can we not press forward?

## WHAT MAKES MINISTRY EFFECTIVE IN CHINA?

What FEBC models for us is ingenuity and perseverance—critical skills when doing global ministry. There are always unique complexities to deal with; it's almost never straightforward.

For example, FEBC is very effective on digital platforms. They use a popular texting service called WeChat. The government knows everything they're doing and lets them do it. But then, without warning, they just shut down their account.

Recently, Raymond said they had around 10 million users when the government closed their account. "What did you do?" I asked him. "We started a new account," he said. People eventually found them, and the audience builds back up again.

See why these international partnerships are so important? Our ministry partners know their culture, they understand what works, and they apply tremendous grit and grace in getting God's Word out there. We could never do this ourselves. Pray for these men and women, God's servants in Hong Kong.

I HAVE OFTEN FELT WE NEED TO DO MORE TO REACH CHINA WITH GOD'S WORD AND SO I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES. I THINK THIS IS GOD'S DIRECT ANSWER FOR A PATH FORWARD IN TAKING GOD'S WHOLE WORD ... TO CHINA.



## LESS NONSENSE, MORE OF THE WORD

*"It's never too late to learn about Jesus. I want to testify that in the last year and a half, much less nonsense has been sown in my heart and so much more Word!"*

That's the terrific opening to a letter we received from an 80-year-old listener of our Dutch programs in Bonaire. She continues:

*"I have never been to church or educated in the Bible. Your lessons have helped me understand what is important in life. My only regret is that I didn't find you sooner. I will waste no more time in getting to know the Lord and living this new life. I have invited my friends to listen with me and we have great discussions afterward. Please keep sharing these important teachings. I rely on them to get me through each day."*

It's true! It's never too late to turn to Jesus. Let's pray more people hear God's Word in

Bonaire and throughout the Dutch Caribbean. May God's Word draw them close and, regardless of their age, may they too begin a new life in Him.

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](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY) TO SIGN UP.**

# What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE

## THRU THE BIBLE CELEBRATES DOING GOD'S WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS

Every year, to honor our ministry partners, we treat them to lunch and talk about all God has done through our global efforts. We love these people!



### JOINING WITH THRU THE BIBLE'S STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE MINISTRY PARTNERS FROM:

Salem Broadcasting

KBRT

International Scripture Ministries

Know the Truth

TWR

Far East Broadcasting Company

Grace to You

RKMedia

KKLA

TWR-Canada

Fluid Communications

Some of our pastors

Blue Letter Bible

KWVE



THRU the BIBLE

## A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

If you've been around *Thru the Bible* for long, you know that ministry in India holds a special place in our hearts. Fast becoming the most populated country on earth (1.33 billion people—compared to 347 million in the U.S.), India is surprisingly responsive to the gospel.

In 1796 William Carey, whom some call the father of modern missions, first went to India to bring the gospel. But he didn't go alone.

Before leaving England, Carey said to Christian brothers, "Well, I'll go down, if you hold the rope." Like a miner descending into an unexplored mine, Carey trusted those who supported him.

In essence, we say the same thing to you today. Together we take the whole Word to the whole world. *Thru the Bible* will carry the message to the unknown, but we rely on you to hold the rope.

Carey couldn't have known how the Lord would multiply and bless his efforts. Neither will we, until we all—people from every tribe and nation on earth—stand before God's throne.

Let's keep going with our sights on that day and our Savior, Jesus.

Gregg Harris  
President, *Thru the Bible*



# WHY STUDY JAMES?

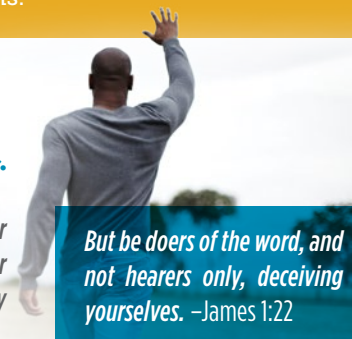
Join in the study of James on *Thru the Bible* FEBRUARY 12 – MARCH 4 or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

The book of James was the first book in the New Testament to be written—likely about 20 years after Jesus returned to heaven and the church began. The book's focus is: "What does faith look like?" James deals with the ethics of Christianity, not doctrine. He's about shoe-leather. In fact, James starts the first chapter telling us to "consider it pure joy" whenever we face trials and tribulations.



**FAITH IS THE CAUSE OF *salvation*;**  
**WORKS ARE THE RESULT OF *salvation*.**

"God looks down and sees your heart, and He knows whether you believe or not—that is justification by faith. But your neighbor next door doesn't see your heart; he can only judge by your works, the fruit of your faith." —Dr. J. Vernon McGee



*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.* —James 1:22

## BECAUSE IT'S SO PRACTICAL, THE BOOK OF JAMES HAS BEEN COMPARED TO THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF PROVERBS:

### ON WISDOM

James 1:5—"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God..."  
See Proverbs 2:6

### ON HUMILITY

James 4:6, 10—"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble...  
Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."  
See Proverbs 3:34

### ON THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

James 3:5—"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"  
See Proverbs 26:28

### WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?

James 4:13,14—"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city' ... you do not know what will happen tomorrow."  
See Proverbs 27:1

### ANGER

James 1:19—"Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."  
See Proverbs 15:28

### HOW TO PRAY

James 5:16—"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."  
See Proverbs 15:29

# I Love to Tell *the Story*

## MAXIM | Belarus

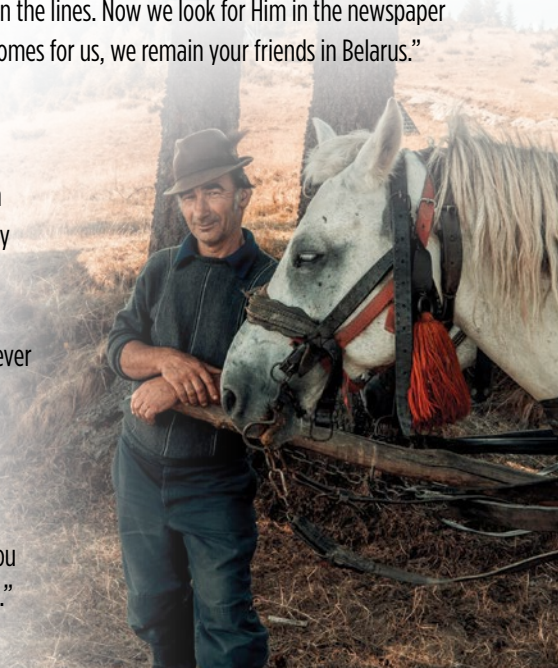
“We decided to write a letter to you together. We are three families. We have been listening to your programs for more than five years together, and we want to continue doing it until Jesus Christ returns.

“We like the book of Revelation most of all, because it describes clearly that we will be with our Lord, that God will wipe away all tears, there will be no death, no pain, no sorrow, for the former things are passed away (Revelation 22:4). Your program explains even the hardest things to understand in a very simple manner. We are very thankful for the good examples you give us on how we can live each day for our Lord.

“We also did not know Jesus was in every book of the Bible. Thank you for teaching us how to look for God hidden in between the lines. Now we look for Him in the newspaper and on the news programs. Until He comes for us, we remain your friends in Belarus.”

## A TAXI DRIVER | Bulgaria

“I am an evangelist and drive a taxi to earn a living. It also gives me a lot of opportunity to share the gospel. Your broadcasts are an important part of that. Whenever *Thru the Bible* comes on, I switch on my radio. Whoever is in my taxi hears it. When they hear it is a radio program, they listen very attentively. After the program, I easily talk about my beliefs, and as they leave I am sure to tell them where they can listen again. Thank you for helping me be a light in the community.”



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