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

AS GOD TAKES CARE OF THE
FLOWERS AND THE BIRDS,

He takes care of you.

JUST AS HE DID YESTERDAY, HE'LL DO

today AND *tomorrow.*

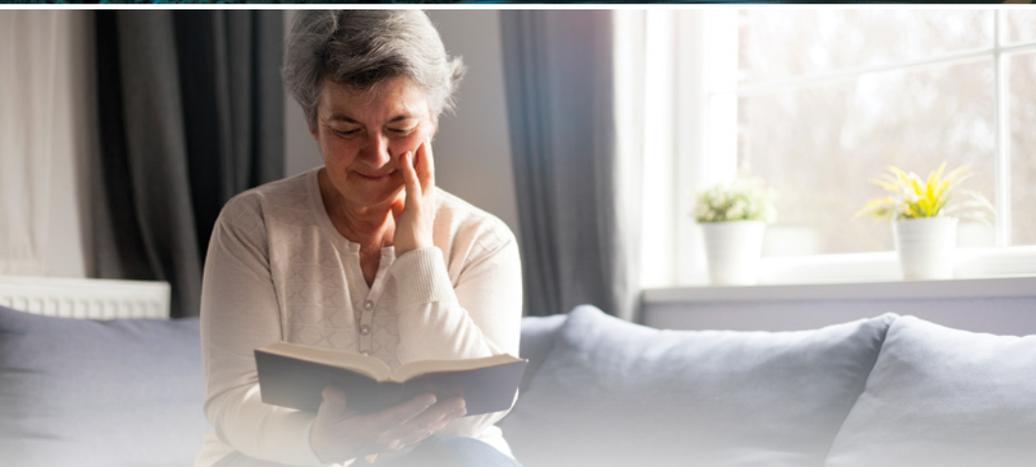
J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



FIVE THINGS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

Dr. J. Vernon McGee

What drives us to do good works? In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He talks about our relationship with God and the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5 tells us about what makes a child of God righteous.
- Matthew 6 deals with how we can express that righteousness.
- Matthew 7 shows us specifically how to treat others.

Doing good works makes someone look very religious, but many have never come to Jesus by faith. Nicodemus had that religious righteousness, but when he came to Jesus, our Lord said, *"You have to be born again."* True righteousness only comes through trusting Christ. Only then does our motive match our practice.

Now, let's explore five things Matthew 6 says are between our souls and God. These righteous acts are meaningless unless they're done in the right way. But when we see them in relationship to God, they reveal our citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.

① GIVING ALMS: WHEN YOU GIVE MONEY

Your giving is between you and God, and you should not give in order to be noticed by people. The minute you get a third party involved, then you don't get any credit for it at all. The Lord describes a scene in a crowded synagogue where a hypocrite drops his gift to the poor in the offering and then blows a trumpet to announce their gift. "They have their reward," Jesus said (6:2). They were after the applause of men, and they got it. Their generosity wasn't between them and God and is worth nothing before God. Instead, Jesus said, do your giving in secret. The Father sees it and will reward openly.

② GENUINE PRAYER: WHEN YOU TALK TO GOD

Some of the same principles apply when you pray. Don't do it so others will see and praise you. Jesus called those who prayed in public hypocrites. In Jesus' day, the men wore prayer shawls when they prayed. Some men wore them all the time. Jesus says if they boast like that, they have their reward. They may get other's praise, but their own prayers aren't answered. Their fancy words never get above the rafters.

Look closely at Jesus' sermon and you'll see something revolutionary. He uses the term "Father." (See John 1:12 to learn how to be a child of God.) In the Old Testament, people never called God, "Father." No one had a personal relationship with God like a son and a father. Jesus describes a brand-new relationship people can have with God.

The mark of genuine prayer is sincerity. You go in and close the door; it's between you and the Lord. Then simplicity: You don't need to keep repeating. Just get right down to the point. Tell the Lord what's on your mind. Ask Him for help. He hears you. In fact, before you even ask, He already knows what you need, but we're to ask Him anyway.

Then Jesus gives us a sample of how to pray. It's called "the Lord's prayer." Now this is not our Lord's own prayer, you can read that in John 17. His relationship to God is different from ours. We can call Him "Father" when we come to Him through faith in Christ; Jesus called

...continued on page 4

Him “Father” because of His place in the Godhead. Jesus carefully used the terms “My Father” and “your Father,” never “our Father.” Also, Luke records, “Forgive us our sins” (Luke 11:4). The Lord Jesus had no sins to confess. He was the sinless One (John 8:46). So strictly speaking, this example Jesus gives us should be called, “The Disciples’ Prayer,” and it is a wonderful model prayer.

- Jesus instructs us to pray so God’s kingdom can come.
- He tells us to be dependent on God for our daily needs.
- He prompts us to ask forgiveness for our sins.
- He guides us in asking for help when we’re tempted to sin; “*Don’t leave us in the testing.*”

This is a marvelous prayer for us to learn how to pray. We can begin with these words until we learn to pray with our own words.

③ GENUINE FASTING: WHEN YOU REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

Some of the same principles we’ve learned about giving and praying now apply to fasting. If you’re going to fast, don’t tell anybody about it, but do it on your own. There’s value in fasting when you do it between you and God.

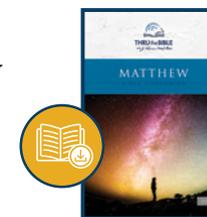
④ HEAVENLY STUFF: WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR THINGS

Some people doubt money is a spiritual topic, but Jesus talks a lot about it. He says your “treasure” can be gathered up in heaven. You can do that by putting it in the Lord’s work. Don’t just give to anything—investigate how your treasure will be used. Make sure you’re giving to something that’s going with you to heaven. You’ll think more about heaven that way, too.

⑤ GOD’S PROVISION: HOW GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU

If I give to God, who will take care of me? God will. Jesus points our attention to the birds. The little birds trust God to take care of them, and we ought to do that, too. Sure, we should exercise judgment, but Jesus said don’t live in such a way that provisions like food and dress and housing are a burden on us. Our Lord said, “*Just look at the flower. Look what God does for it*” (6:28-29). As God takes care of the flowers and the birds, He takes care of you. Just as He did yesterday, He’ll do today and tomorrow. Put Him first and let Him care for you.

Jesus taught His Sermon on the Mount with authority rather than familiar, empty sayings. People recognized the difference right away. The Sermon on the Mount is a glorious passage of Scripture. Don’t bypass it, but read it correctly and it will bring you to the person of Jesus Christ.



Download the **Matthew Bible Companion** here.

MY TURN

READ MATTHEW 6. Then reread Dr. McGee’s article and underline and/or copy here the truth that Jesus’s instruction presses on you about your life in God in these five areas.

① GIVING ALMS: WHEN YOU GIVE MONEY

② GENUINE PRAYER: WHEN YOU TALK TO GOD

③ GENUINE FASTING: WHEN YOU REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

④ HEAVENLY STUFF: WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR THINGS

⑤ GOD’S PROVISION: HOW GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU

ASK THE LORD TO SHOW YOU HOW TO APPLY THESE FIVE TRUTHS IN THE WAY YOU THINK AND FEEL EVERY DAY.

HOW CAN WE REACH INDIA?



George Phillip, TWR-India leader, shares the beautiful story of THRU the BIBLE's Home Groups

In a populous country like India, with only a miniscule percentage of Christians, the need to reach out and engage people in the Word of God is immense. The Word has power, and THRU the BIBLE has the Word in numerous Indian heart languages. THRU the BIBLE's Home Groups were formed to make the Word available in a localised setting so that the maximum number of people could benefit.

Home Groups enable thousands of people to grow in the Word by discovering, discussing, and exploring the truth together and, in the process, have fellowship with one another in the comfort of a home at a time and day convenient to all. Each group is like a small community working towards building life together in true love and a Christ-centered relationship. They support each other in prayer and, as a result, innumerable miracles have happened.

HOME GROUPS GROW AND MULTIPLY RAPIDLY

In almost every group, every member is trained to be a leader and look for opportunities to form their own groups. Everyone is encouraged to glorify God through their lives. Since the small groups are less visible, they receive less government resistance. Presently, Christian activities and meetings in India are not encouraged and are met with violence, oppression, and persecution. Meetings in homes don't attract attention and are safe to a great extent.

HOME GROUPS TEACH THE WORD

In a country with few Bible resources and even fewer Bible teachers, digital audio players loaded with THRU the BIBLE provide a systematic study of the Word in all of India's major languages and several dialects.



Everyone is being equipped to discover the biblical truths so that in due course they can emerge as leaders and teachers of the Word. The model is simple and has proved to be a success among new believers as well as oral learners.

HOME GROUPS ENCOURAGE FELLOWSHIP

Since the groups are small, everyone knows your name and feels like they belong. It's a beautiful feeling to know you are loved and cared for. Since there are no caste, cultural, economic, or denomination barriers, people feel safe to confide.



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE US TO PRAY?

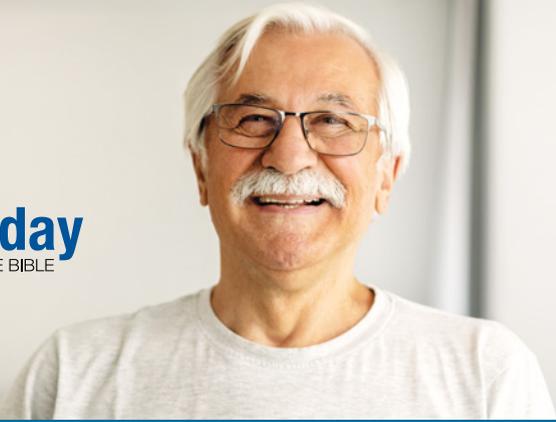
- Pray the production and distribution of the THRU the BIBLE study in 124 languages will go out unhindered.
- Our strategic plans for the next three years have been finalised, and we are excited to see the next level of growth. However, we are reminded that unless the Lord builds the house, the builders build in vain (Psalm 127:1).
- Pray we can break new ground and produce the Bible study in many more new languages and disseminate the audio content in areas we have never tread, extending the reach even to the most remote village of this nation.

Thank you!

WE NEED THE FERVENT PRAYER SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS

SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR STORIES FROM INDIA'S TTB HOME GROUPS.





“I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR ...”

If God is for us, who can be against us? –Romans 8:31

Welcome, prayer travelers. Today we're in Serbia where we meet Svetislav, who shares:

“This year more than any other I'm grateful for God's Word and your teaching. Covid-19 was worrisome, but I gained so much from listening to God's Word. Each day as I studied with you, I got to know God better, but also myself. He showed me what I am like—what my fears, weaknesses and sins are.

“I am thankful God has saved me and that He will never leave me. More than anything, I realized that if God is with me, I have nothing to fear from any man or virus.

“I'm praying for the opportunity serve Him in the next year as well, and for many more to listen to this program.”

Praise God for the growing faith of Svetislav and all those who hop aboard the Bible Bus in Serbia. Pray more will join us and that through the study of God's Word they too will realize that if God is with us, there is nothing in this world to fear.

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](https://ttb.org/pray) TO SIGN UP.

What's Happening at THRU the BIBLE



A MAN ON A MISSION

MEET TROY CARL, a key strategic technology partner who is helping us develop a global strategy rooted in management and distribution of all of Dr. McGee's content.

Ever since I met Christ, I have been passionate about creating and delving into new ways to connect every person, in every language, to the Bible so they can come to know why Christ is so wonderful.

To that end, I've had the privilege of helping to build the world's largest digital Bible platform in over 1800 languages that touches over 600 million users in 240 countries.

Today we're asking the question: How can we help people better engage with the Bible? How do we harness technology, leverage platforms, and provide resources for ministries like THRU the BIBLE to take the whole Word to the whole world?

Today, 97% of the world's population have access to a mobile device, and over 5 billion people have a smartphone. In remote areas of the world where people may not have shoes or plumbing, many have a smartphone in their back pocket and can listen to THRU the BIBLE! **Our ability to take God's Word to every person is truly viable if we build the systems to deliver it to them directly.**

This is essentially Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28: Go into all the world and into every *system*. Go and fish for every man and woman because every soul is so precious to Him. **This is what God is doing today at THRU the BIBLE.**



THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

We're Celebrating a Thanksgiving in July

Every time we receive one of your emails, letters, voicemails, videos, etc., I am reminded that God promises to grow a harvest where we plant a seed. He is the Lord of the harvest, working in His own appointed time.

We are not farmers, but we are each called to work a field. We share God's Word as far and wide as we can, to the best of our ability, always understanding that God is the one who causes a seed to come to life with the water of His Word. He brings the growth and multiplies our work. As the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6, we plant but God brings the increase.

That's why Dr. McGee repeatedly said we're called to sow, not to harvest. Our God-given assignments are to pray, to give, to share, to communicate. Our role in this harvest is to faithfully and with faith sow the seed farther. We obey God, and He is the one who multiplies.

Over the last five decades, THRU the BIBLE has operated under the mandate to carefully steward God's blessing and, in turn, bless others with it. Together we take His whole Word to the whole world in partnership, just as God designed ministry to be done. Each time you hear stories of how God is working in people's lives, think of a bountiful harvest, a feast of blessings!

We wish you a very happy thanksgiving,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President

*And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands for us;
yes, establish the work of our hands.* –Psalm 90:17

WHY STUDY MATTHEW?

Join in the studies on *Thru the Bible* JULY 2—AUGUST 25 or anytime online, by podcast, or by mobile app.

As we begin our study of the Gospel of Matthew, we stand at the end of a huge gap in history—a chasm of 400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament. It's been 400 years since Malachi (the Old Testament's last prophet) had spoken, and after that, heaven went silent. "Station G-O-D went off the air, and there was no broadcasting for four centuries," says Dr. McGee. And then there was the Gospel of Matthew.

"Matthew and Genesis, two key books of the Bible, are very much alike. Learn to think through them, chapter by chapter. They will help you get acquainted with God."—Dr. J. Vernon McGee

**IN THIS GOSPEL, JESUS IS THE KING,
Israel's long-awaited Messiah;
HE FULFILLS THE PROPHECIES, PROMISES, TYPES,
AND EXPECTATIONS OF ALL THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

IN MATTHEW:

53 OLD TESTAMENT QUOTES

76 NEW TESTAMENT QUOTES

KEY VERSE

[Jesus] said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are **the Christ**, the Son of the living God." –Matthew 16:15-16

IMPORTANT SERMONS IN MATTHEW:

- **The Sermon on the Mount** | Chapters 5-7
- **The Mystery Parables** | Chapter 13
- **The Olivet Discourse** | Chapters 24-25

WHY DO YOU

the Bible?

FROM INDIA'S TTB HOME GROUPS:

I am a Home Group leader. **Never did I imagine that one day I would lead a Bible study with people in my village.** I began to listen to the Bible study in my language from the day I received the audio player. Your study of the Word of God is easy to understand but also gives me the context of each narrative. The applications are helpful, and I can already see a lot of changes in me. God's Spirit brought to light bad habits in my life that I didn't know existed. **The Word is working in the lives of my group as I see them grow spiritually.** This could never have been possible without your enabling. God bless you abundantly. **From Karunesh | Hindi**

TTB's Home Group has helped me grow in my spiritual life and prepares me to share the Gospel boldly with my community. **I've now started three more Home Groups because many are keen to join.** We each are being strengthened by God's Word. **From Hasuben | Gujarat**

Our Home Group is listening to the study of the Gospel of John. Each verse is insightful and began working in my life. John 15:12 stands out specifically. **I never felt I needed to love my neighbors and lived a rather self-centered life. Now, I have begun to love people, and help them as I can.** My neighbors noticed a difference in my life, and I gave the credit to the Home Group and understanding what God expects of us. **From Asow | Assamese**

LEARN HOW GOD IS AT WORK IN **INDIA'S TTB HOME GROUPS** ON PAGES 6-7.



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