

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

**ONE OF THE GREATEST  
MINISTRIES YOU AND I  
CAN HAVE TODAY IS TO  
PRAY FOR OTHERS.**

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



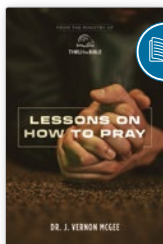


# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## LESSONS ON HOW TO PRAY



Dr. J. Vernon McGee  
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from  
**“Lessons on How to Pray.”**  
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

Who from the Bible do you think of as great men of prayer? Moses on Mount Sinai interceding for the children of Israel? David with his psalms? Elijah who stood alone before an altar drenched with water at Mount Carmel? Daniel who opened his window toward Jerusalem and prayed every day? The Lord Jesus was the Man of prayer, so much so that one of His disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” (Luke 11:1).

But with all of his other qualities, we seldom think of Paul as a man of *prayer*, yet this is the field in which he excelled. In his letter to the Ephesians Paul prays twice (1:15-22) and (3:14-22). Let’s look at what characterized these two prayers.

### **Effective prayers are motivated by good news.**

What was it that caused this apostle to go to prayer? He tells us:

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.* -Ephesians 1:15



What sent Paul to prayer? Not bad news, but *good* news. Unfortunately, the most common motivation for us to pray are trouble, sickness, distress, or crisis. By all means we should we pray at those times, but it's not the only time we should pray. Paul said, in essence, *"When I heard about your faith—faith in God, faith in Christ—and then I heard of your love to the brethren, it moved me to prayer."* It was good news that prompted him to pray.

## Effective prayers are for others.

*I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.* —Ephesians 1:16

There certainly were times Paul prayed for himself, but Paul prayed publicly for others.

This is an area you can engage, too. You might say, "I'm not able to teach, I'm not able to preach, I'm not called as a missionary, I can't even sing in the choir." My friend, you can pray. Actually, prayer is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. One of the greatest ministries you and I can have today is to follow Paul's example and engage in a ministry of praying for others.

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## SHORT AND SWEET

- The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6:7, "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."
- One of Moses' greatest prayers for Israel is recorded in only four verses (Deuteronomy 9:26-29).
- Elijah, on top of Mount Carmel as he stood alone for God against the prophets of Baal, prayed a great prayer that is only two verses long (1 Kings 18:36, 37).
- Nehemiah's great prayer is recorded in only seven verses (Nehemiah 1:5-11).
- The prayer of our Lord in John 17 takes only three minutes to read in the Greek.

## Effective prayers are brief.

Martin Luther argued that the fewer the words, the better the prayer. Some people think a long prayer means we're better heard or super religious. But really, we may be just talking to ourselves.

I like what a lady once said when a visiting preacher was quite lengthy at the prayer meeting. The people were kneeling while he stood up to pray. He was really wandering, as sometimes preachers do, until finally this lady reached over, pulled his coattail, and said, "Call Him Father, and ask Him for something!"

## Effective prayers are submissive.

*For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* –Ephesians 3:14

"I bow my knees." That is something that is needed today. I wish we could return to the old-fashioned way of kneeling at the time of prayer.

During my first year of being a pastor I was invited to hold a series of meetings in Tennessee. The first service at that little country church was packed out. I said, "Let's pray," and I shut my eyes. I heard a tremendous shuffling, but I didn't dare look up because I didn't want



*Oh, may God  
teach us to pray.*

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to be irreverent. I kept my eyes closed until I said, “Amen.” When I opened them, I didn’t see a soul! *What happened? Did they all leave while I prayed?* But then they began to pop up between the pews just like the corn comes up—a few at a time—and shortly they were all back in their pews again. They had been kneeling on the hard wooden floor.

Kneeling is a good position to pray. I urge you to get down on your knees when you pray privately. In fact, get on your face before God. When we bow, we acknowledge that He is sovereign and we are obedient to Him. My, how we need to not treat God as an equal but as the Lord of heaven. We do well to go down on our faces before Him. We need to learn to get our bodies into a subordinate position.



For more from Dr. McGee on the content of Paul’s prayers, [download the entire booklet, “Lessons on How to Pray,” here.](#)

#### YOU’LL LEARN HOW TO:

- Pray with thanksgiving
- Pray for spiritual understanding
- Pray to the Father
- Pray for spiritual power

## MY TURN

*Homework* FROM *Dr. McGee:*

“When I was teaching in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (now Biola University), I would ask the students during their studies of Paul’s epistles to make a list of all his prayers. **They were to put down every time Paul said he was praying for someone. Lo and behold, student after student would come to me and say, ‘I had no idea Paul had such a prayer list. I didn’t know he prayed for so many people!’ Paul was a great man of prayer.**

“*What kind of prayer list do you have? How many people do you remember in prayer, even once a week? Maybe you are living a busy life these days, but I challenge you to once a week take time out to go down a list and remember specific people in prayer.*”



## “WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE AFRICA”



Ray Alary  
Executive Director,  
THRU the BIBLE Canada



Recently when the THRU the BIBLE staff was gathered, Ray told us three stories from Africa that you just need to hear ...

**Serving with TWR for three decades, I've seen God at work in a lot of places around the world. But Africa changed my life.** We lived in Swaziland when the AIDS pandemic was at its worst. We buried people we loved every week. Others died in the 21 civil wars that were waging on the continent. You don't forget their faces. **I had the privilege of going to meet listeners of THRU the BIBLE. And I tell you, this is why we do what we do, why THRU the BIBLE exists.**

**Ivory Coast** | Once while in the Ivory Coast, we were invited by a warden to his prison. This was during a very tense time of civil conflict. The prison was probably 350' x 600', and it was crammed full with over 2,000 men. If there is hell on earth, it was inside this prison. Across the compound sat 200 men waiting for us. Somehow a prisoner had a smuggled radio. Every night, he would sneak into a corner and listen to the news. He scanned the dial and discovered THRU the BIBLE, and he listened. The next day, he got into his corner again and listened more. **Dr. McGee asked in one study if someone would like to meet Jesus Christ, and this prisoner bowed his knee and surrendered to Jesus Christ. And if that wasn't exciting enough, the other prisoners saw the change in him and asked what happened. The reason we were invited to that prison was by that time 250 men had accepted Christ as their Savior.** The warden wanted us to see the impact of what the gospel can do.

Eventually a civil war erupted, and all those prisoners were freed. **By that time, 650 men had accepted Christ. Those men went back to their families and began the process of changing entire communities.**



**Outside the prison in Ivory Coast.**



**Ray's colleagues from TWR with the prison warden (far right) who invited them to witness how the gospel was transforming the hearts and lives of prisoners.**

**Burundi** | Other occasions sent me places I shouldn't have gone, dangerous places during genocides. But we found a way to get in—this time to Burundi. We couldn't fly into the country in a civilian airplane, so we landed in Rwanda and drove over the border. We heard gunfire from the genocides the whole night. (Over one and a half million people in total died.) A man came to our office, wanting to tell us his story. The whole time, he is crying. "Soldiers came into my community," he said, "and shot every member of my family. I am the only survivor. I decided to shoot five soldiers for revenge of every member of my family." He got a radio to listen to the news. One night he heard THRU the BIBLE. The next night he listened again. Over time, he made the very same commitment to Christ as the prisoner from the Ivory Coast. **The exciting part of this story is that he took the lessons from THRU the BIBLE and made a curriculum. He then talked to his Burundi government and convinced them to share those lessons in the schools.** "This is the only way we'll not have another genocide in this country. My people need to hear about Jesus."



**Ray and others pray with the man in Burundi who abandoned his plans for revenge.**

**Nigeria** | God opened the door for us to put a transmitter in Benin. Let's talk about the impact that transmitter had. The next country to the east is Nigeria, where in the north they practice the most strict adherence to Sharia law in the world. There, a man was searching the radio dial, looking for news, and found THRU the BIBLE. This made him extremely angry—that someone would dare to put Christian teaching on the radio. But he listened the next night, and the next, for eight months. Then he called our office and said, "I need a Bible. I have a Quran, and I need to figure out what the truth is." **This man knew if he was caught listening to THRU the BIBLE he would be stoned to death. He needed to find a place to listen where no one would suspect him.**

So he went to the mosque. **With a Quran and a Bible, he searched for the truth of the gospel every night. One day he believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, and that is all he needed to know. That man was the imam of the community** (the one who leads Muslims in prayer). I know of three other stories of imams coming to believe in Jesus Christ. **It's the gospel that reaches into our hearts. It's not Dr. McGee or any other preacher; God's Word speaks to our hearts—His Word is living and active and breathes life into us.**

I can close my eyes right now and see that prisoner in the Ivory Coast and see the man in Burundi and the man listening to THRU the BIBLE in the mosque. And I know God sees them. **He sees their seeking hearts, and He saves them. It's the privilege of my life to be used by God to bring them His Word.**



**THRU** the **BIBLE**

**A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS**

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## **Don't you just love Ray's stories from Africa?**

These stories were from several years ago, but he just told me some from several *days* ago that prove God is still working—amazing stories of how God is meeting people in the most unexpected places. Then they listen to THRU the BIBLE and believe and grow in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the beautiful story we are working together to take to the whole world. We are living in the “good old days” we will be talking about throughout eternity.

Tell us your stories, too. We love to hear them.

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President

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# WHY STUDY JOB?

Join in the studies on  
THRU the BIBLE JUNE 2—JULY 4  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

The story of Job is about perseverance: How does a faithful man walk with God in the middle of suffering? He didn't know that he was being watched by God and Satan. He didn't know God would restore all that had been taken away. Job trusted God in the darkest hours of his life. Over 25 times he asked God, "Why?"—without any explanation. In the end, Job discovered God was worthy of his trust.

*"In spite of everything that had happened to him, Job believed that God was God and worthy of his worship. Job trusted Him, even unto death. My friend, trials would be meaningless, suffering would be senseless, and testing would be irrational unless God had some good purpose and sound reason for them."* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## WHAT WE LEARN FROM JOB ABOUT TIMES OF SUFFERING:

- Even when silent, *God is with us.*
- Wisdom comes from *fearing God* and *turning away from evil.*
- Find friends who have the *gift of encouragement.*
- *Satan tries to use our pain to prove God doesn't care.*
- *God directs* every event in our lives.
- *God can be trusted* even when we don't understand His ways.
- When nothing else satisfies, *lean on God's sovereignty* (He is in control).

## KEY VERSE

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.* —Job 19:25, 26

## IN YOUR BIBLE, UNDERLINE THESE IMPORTANT VERSES IN JOB ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

- Job 1:21
- Job 5:8-9
- Job 28:28
- Job 19:25
- Job 10:12
- Job 12:13
- Job 9:10
- Job 33:4
- Job 23:10

## BLESSING IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

***Then Job answered the Lord and said: “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” –Job 42:1-2***

We can always trust God’s plan, even if we don’t understand it. He has a better purpose and design for our lives than we can imagine. That’s what we’re learning on the Bible Bus as we travel through the book of Job and that’s also what Galen in Seattle, Washington, is learning too. Here’s his story:

*“In these moments of such uncertainty, you have been a great blessing to me and radically changed my relationship with God. Since Covid-19, the world seems to be more difficult, people are often angry. I end most days with a heaviness I cannot explain. In short, nothing is as it used to be. That’s why I am grateful you are helping me to absorb God’s Word. As it becomes a part of me, I feel prepared to face the circumstances that are ahead.”*

What a great reminder: God is in control and nothing or no one can stop Him from accomplishing His purposes. As we study the Bible together (or absorb it, as Galen so wonderfully says), pray more people come to trust in God completely. May they too begin to live with the confidence of knowing He is with us in every situation.

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

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](https://TTB.ORG/PRAY)  
TO SIGN UP.**

# J E S U S I N

## Job

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

### ONE MEDIATOR

God has placed about us certain props to make us stand straight and upright. Ecclesiastes 7:29 puts it like this, “... God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes [devices].”

**God has clothed us all, godly and ungodly, with an armor of protection, a security; He makes it rain on the just and unjust.** The wicked get just as much sunshine and air to breathe and their health is just as good as those that are the godly, those that are of Christ today.

**The devil knows that if he can get to us, remove those props, strip us of every vestige of aid, take away our soft garment of security, take away our blanket, he can upset us and turn us upside down, destroy our morale, rearrange our thinking, brainwash us.** And therefore, God places a hedge around us to keep the devil away.

Now sometimes the devil is permitted to crash the gate. And he'll strip a person down to their naked soul. God permitted the devil to brainwash Job. The book of Job presents the problem, states the stripping down of his soul with no solution.

If you want to find the solution to Job's dilemma, you must go to the New Testament for the real answer. It's sort of like the algebra book I had at school. **The problems were in the front of the book; the answers were in the back. And the Bible is like that. You get the problem here. You turn over to the New Testament, you get the answer.**

Now the Old Testament, in many respects, is a very unsatisfactory book, by the way. Nothing actually is solved there. And as someone has put it, “The Old Testament is expectation. The New Testament is realization.”

**We have to go to the New Testament in order to get the answer.** **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). And that's the answer to Job's cry.** **“Oh, that there were an umpire to stand between us” (see Job 9:33).** **Job said, “If there was only someone that could take hold of the hand of God and take hold of mine and bring us together.” And there is someone today. His name is Jesus, our Mediator and Advocate.**

I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

## GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS

“I really appreciate your messages, since I was introduced to you this summer in the study of Acts. **I am a senior in high school and run a very small Christian club. My church is willing to provide free Bibles, so I was planning on making a flyer to advertise them at school. To help guide new people in the study of it, I thought the Bible Bus passes should accompany the Bibles.** I pray that I will need a lot, but I would be fine starting at around 25, since I can also give them to friends, and two club leaders at other schools if they want to advertise as well. Thank you for the work that you do.” **From Michael | San Ramon, CA**

“One day I took a taxi. I noticed that the taxi’s radio was on. I was surprised because the taxi driver was listening to a station that preached about Christianity .... What was told in the program touched my heart. **The speaker explained the wrongs of trusting man and said that we should trust in God. That he who trusts in God will never be shamed. He explained that we are not alone, and that God is on our side for good in every situation. He was telling me everything my heart needed.** When I came to the place where I was dropped, a voice in me said: *Give God a chance.* After that, I listened to your program for months. **Jesus Christ changed all my thinking. He changed my heart and life ... I was forgiven and saved. I am now a believer in Jesus Christ.**” **From Istanbul, Turkey**

**IN WHATEVER WAY IS YOUR BEST, SHARE YOUR  
“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY” STORY.**

**Email [BibleBus@TTB.org](mailto:BibleBus@TTB.org), leave a message on our message line at 1-800-65-BIBLE, record a short video**—whatever works for you, we will be delighted to share your joy.



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