

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

YOU NEED A ROAD MAP,
A CHART, A COMPASS TO POINT THE WAY.

God's Word contains it all.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



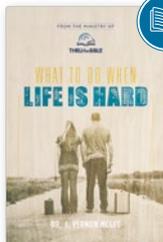


WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

THE BIBLE POINTS THE WAY



Dr. J. Vernon McGee
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This excerpt is from our booklet, **“What to Do When Life Is Hard.”** Download the full digital booklet **here**.

The life of the believer is a journey. If you are a Christian, you are a stranger down here, a pilgrim in a foreign land. You feel that, don't you? Then how are you to navigate these things throughout your life's journey? You need a road map, a chart, a compass. You need something to point the way. Where do you find those things? Look to the remedy—God's Word contains it all.

Do you believe that's true? Let's take a look at our specific needs and the Bible's answer to each one.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path ... The entrance of Your words gives light”* (Psalm 119:105, 130). The Bible is the only flashlight God has for you.

BREAD TO EAT: Jesus quoted Moses when He told Satan, *“Man shall not live by bread alone”* We need bread for hungry souls. Not physical bread, *“... but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4).



WATER: *“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it”* (Isaiah 55:10, 11). The psalmist says *“the river of God is full of water”* (Psalm 65:9). You hold the river in your hand, and it’s full of water. Have you drunk from it recently?

A WAY TO KEEP CLEAN: One of the most difficult things to do on a long trip is keep clean. *“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word”* (Psalm 119:9). There’s water for bathing in the Word of God. *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). *“You are already clean,”* our Lord said, *“because of the word which I have spoken to you”* (John 15:3). Have you had your spiritual bath recently?

PROTECTION: Paul said perilous times would come, and we need a defense. *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12).

FIRST AID KIT: Are you wounded? Brokenhearted? The Bible has in it the balm of Gilead to heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds (see Psalm 147:3).

COMPANIONSHIP: Our modern society suffers from an epidemic of loneliness. The Word of God says, *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you"* (Deuteronomy 13:6). May I say, you won't have a vision of the Lord Jesus today; He doesn't speak that way anymore. He speaks through God's book. If you want His companionship and fellowship today, the way to get it is through His Word.

HOPE: You'll never complete the journey without this one thing. We need hope that tomorrow will be brighter. We need hope that at the end of this journey there is satisfaction and fullness of life. We get it, friend, right here in God's Word: *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

Have confidence in the Bible, my beloved, and you will find in it all you need to face the hardships of life. *"The Holy Scriptures ... are able to make you wise for salvation,"* Paul says. Just as with Timothy, a saving knowledge of Jesus as Savior must come first. But perilous times are coming, and these things characterizing the world seep into the hearts of Christians. How will you overcome these things? The remedy is right here in God's Word, but you have to take the entire prescription—there's no shortcut.

IF ANYONE THIRSTS, LET HIM
come to Me and drink.

JOHN 7:37

Your status as God's child is secure, but are you "wise for salvation"? Does the Word of God work in your life to deliver you? Jesus offers, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37). This is the only condition: Come to Jesus. Learn of Him and His ways in God's book.



MY TURN

Which of those eight descriptions of God's Word resonates with you today? Have any of them come into view as you've studied God's Word on the Bible Bus? Please share your story at BibleBus@ttb.org We look forward to hearing how God is at work.

Look over those eight descriptions again. Perhaps you're praying right now for someone who could use this help. Spend a moment now, praying down the list.

Fill in their name, as you pray:

Father, _____ needs Your **light in the darkness**. Help them be wise and godly as they make that decision ...

Lord, _____ is hungry for You. Please satisfy them with the nourishing **bread of Your Word**.

Use the **water of Your Word** to refresh and replenish _____'s spirit, Lord. They are weary and parched and need this from You.

Lord, please use Your Word to help _____ **keep clean**. We all need a regular spiritual bath.

I pray for _____ right now. They need a defense. Use Your Word in their life as **protection**.

Father, _____ is wounded and brokenhearted. Use Your Word as a "**first-aid kit**" to bind them up.

Lord, give _____ a sense of **companionship** and fellowship today from Your Word. Remind them that they are not alone, but that You are with them.

Father, please give _____ **hope** in You that tomorrow will be brighter. Give them satisfaction and fullness of life in You.



THE PRAYER CHALLENGE #1

“Prayer is the secret of power. I very frankly believe more people are being won today by your prayer than my talking. I give out the Word of God and together we pray that God does His work. Prayer, my friend, does not primarily change things. It changes us. First pray for yourself, then pray God’s Word takes root in others. If it’s a blessing to you, it may be a blessing to others also.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

Dr. McGee believed that when we pray, good things follow through the faithfulness of God. This is a good place to pause and be reminded of the power behind THRU the BIBLE’s global ministry. The vision begins with prayer. The opportunities and resources open up ... by prayer. The opposition and challenges are overcome ... by prayer. You guessed it—the whole Word advances to the whole world, only by prayer.

**Willing to play a part in this very satisfying, global mission?
Here’s how to start.**

Begin right where you are. Pray with confidence that God hears you. He cares about your life and the things that concern you. In fact, He uses it all to draw us closer to Him.

Believe that for the people you're praying for, too. Ask the Lord to use His Word, taught in their heart language, in the way they understand spiritual things best and in their preferred delivery platform (online, on the radio, in an app, in a Home Group, etc.). Pray God meets them where they are.



YOUR PRAYER CHALLENGE THIS MONTH IS TO PRAY THAT PEOPLE MEET GOD AND HIS WORD IN THE ROUTINE OF THEIR ORDINARY DAY. GOD LOVES TO DO THAT! HERE'S PROOF:



PRAYER CHALLENGE STORY

FROM THE TURKISH BIBLE BUS:

“A long-time friend told me he became a Christian. This decision comes with great consequences. In my confusion, I asked him many questions and he invited me to listen to your program. ‘The answers are there,’ he said. So I trusted him and listened (in secret). At first, I wanted to list the things that I heard that were wrong to me. After a while, it seemed as if a big puzzle was being completed in front of my eyes. **I don't know how to express it, but something was happening in my heart while I listened to your program. One day, I knelt down and accepted God's forgiveness of my sin and expressed my belief in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.** I had never thought about it until that moment, but I knew I had to do it. I dedicated my life to Jesus Christ. **I shared this with my friend and now we walk to work together several kilometers every morning to teach each other what we're learning from the Bible or we'll also pray together as we walk.** Would you pray for us?”



Find another prayer challenge story on back cover.



PRAYING FOR NEW LIFE IN YEMEN

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. –2 Corinthians 5:17

“Is Jesus real?”

That’s the question Samira in Yemen recently asked our team in the Middle East. Here’s more of her story:

“I wish to know more about your Bible and your faith. I started listening to your program after I read a post on your Facebook page. The title drew my attention, and then I clicked the link and started listening to two messages a day. At first it was hard to understand, but interest has grown in my heart. I would like to know about your faith. I would like to keep feeling these beautiful, new, and strange things while I learn about the Bible. Help me, please.”

Pray for Samira and all those who hear THRU the BIBLE in Arabic, and praise God for the work that His Spirit is already doing in their lives. Ask Him to open blind eyes and soften hearts. Only He can bring true conviction of sin and create new life.

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://www.ttb.org/pray)
TO SIGN UP.**

J E S U S I N

Ezekiel

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

“I saw visions of God.” While the captives in Babylon sat down and wept by the rivers of Babylon, Ezekiel was seeing visions of God.

Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness was all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. -Ezekiel 1:4

“Behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north.” This whirlwind out of the north indicates a tremendous movement of judgment coming from the throne of God. A light brighter than the sun flashes forth, an incandescent light, like lightning. This all speaks of the unapproachable presence of God.

Out of the light came the likeness of a creature that was like the four faces of a man.

These faces remind us of the four Gospels in which Jesus Christ is revealed in four aspects:

His kingship (Matthew) symbolized here by the lion; **His servanthood** (Mark) symbolized by the ox; **His perfect humanity** (Luke) symbolized by the face of a man; and **His deity** (John) symbolized by the flying eagle.



These four living creatures also resemble the description we have of the cherubim who were in the Garden of Eden to guard the way of the Tree of Life. They were not shutting man out from God; they were keeping the way open. When Adam and Eve looked back as they left the garden, they saw a slain animal whose skins they were wearing. And they saw the cherubim overshadowing, keeping open the way to God. It is the blood that makes an atonement for the sin of man. When Moses made the mercy seat, there were cherubim above which looked down upon the blood of the sacrifices. The only way man can approach God is through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Himself (see John 14:6).

God is moving forward undeviatingly, unhesitatingly toward the accomplishment of His purpose in this world today. Nothing will deter or sidetrack Him.

God is not exposed in this vision—He is portrayed. It is still true that no man has seen God at any time. We don't even know what the Lord Jesus looked like as a man. But the human heart longs to see God. That's why when asked by His disciple to see God the Father, Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:1-9).



Pray about it.

I remember years ago (at another ministry) our leadership team was faced with what seemed an impossible situation. A colleague let out a big sigh and said, “Well, all we can do now is pray.”

We can laugh now at the assumption that we couldn’t do anything before—but we all know what he was trying to say. **Prayer is a mystery and a marvelous response to God. More than just wishful thinking, prayer is putting our faith into words.**

Now after years of seeing how God leads THRU the BIBLE, I’m committed all the more to the priority of prayer. Dr. McGee said often that he’d rather have a listening family who prayed over anything else. He taught how prayer needs to be a way of life, not just for emergencies. “Make prayer a habit,” he said—“that way you’ll be all practiced up when the crisis arises.”

I wish I was better at praying. You, too? The best way I know how to get better is to do it more. **In this issue, you’ll find several ways to pray with us at THRU the BIBLE, including a prayer challenge on pages 6-7. Join me there.**

I’m grateful for your prayer and financial support this month. You’re an answer to my prayer.

Grateful for your partnership,



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President



WHY STUDY EZEKIEL?

Join in the studies on
THRU the BIBLE **AUGUST 29–
OCTOBER 2** or anytime online, by
podcast, or by mobile app.

You've heard of the prophet Daniel, now meet another man God used in the same season. Ezekiel was Daniel's same age, also a prisoner of war, taken to Babylon, but instead of a palace, Ezekiel lived in the refugee camp. God used both to prophesize about the future of His purposes with men and nations. When he was 30 years old and should have become a priest in Jerusalem, Ezekiel got a word from the Lord, and it caused him to do the most peculiar things—all hoping to get God's people to pay attention and turn back to God in repentance.

WHAT GOD HAS SAID HE WILL DO ...

He will do.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO GET PEOPLE TO TURN BACK TO GOD? When the people wouldn't listen to his words, Ezekiel acted them out (and got a lot of attention—but not the good kind).

| **65 TIMES:** “THEN YOU SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD ...”

“In the middle of all the downright bizarre images and parables in Ezekiel, we get a glimpse of the glory of God. Ezekiel unveils God Himself unlike any other book of the Bible. Revelation has the same kind of unveiling, pointing to Jesus Christ.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

**KEY
VERSE**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. –Ezekiel 36:26



Using images from Ezekiel's culture, **God tells Ezekiel to use pictures, dramas, parables, and symbolic acts to call people back to Himself.** (But they wouldn't listen.)





P R A Y E R

C H A L L E N G E S T O R I E S

YOUR PRAYER CHALLENGE THIS MONTH IS TO PRAY THAT PEOPLE MEET GOD AND HIS WORD IN THE ROUTINE OF THEIR ORDINARY DAY. GOD LOVES TO DO THAT! HERE'S PROOF:



PRAYER CHALLENGE STORY

"I came to Istanbul to study. My family was not happy at all since they wanted me to marry as soon as possible. In our region, the elders of the family decide who the children marry. My grandfather decided I would marry a distant relative when I finished school. What a horrible thought! So I kept prolonging school, semester by semester.

*"I met your programs through a college friend who invited me to listen with her. **In my time of distress, I heard you say that Jesus Christ is a living God and if we pray, He will help us in everything. You said He will hear our problems and troubles. I never had such a relationship in Islam.** I grew to believe as I learned more from you that Jesus was the only one who could help me in this impossible situation. I prayed for months. Then, like a miracle, my family just gave up the idea of marrying me off. **Jesus Christ, whom I met through you, helped me. He proved Himself to me in other personal ways, too. I am learning more about Him every day. I have now believed on His name as my Lord and Savior.** Thank you, and please pray for me!"* **From Simone | Turkish Bible Bus | 24 years old**



Box 7100, Pasadena, California 91109-7100
P.O. Box 25325, London, Ontario, Canada N6C 6B1



1-800 65-BIBLE (24253)



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