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

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GOD HAS CALLED YOU  
TO DO SOMETHING, AND HE'S  
GIFTED YOU TO DO IT.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



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# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## ARE YOU USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from  
**"Gifts of the Spirit: How and Why to Use Yours."**  
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

Every believer has a gift from the Holy Spirit.

*But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*  
-1 Corinthians 12:18

I can't think of anything more thrilling than to know God has given you and me gifts to function in this world, and that we are to be partners with Jesus Christ in the tremendous enterprise of making Him known. God sovereignly gives the gifts, and He gives them as it pleases Him. The purpose of the gifts is so the body can function.



A man in one of my congregations had a rare and helpful gift in the church. Although he wasn't an usher, he would stand in the back of the church, and take care of any kind of disruption or commotion in the service. He had a great way of handling people. You may be surprised that something like that is a gift. Gifts vary from this helpful people skill to cooking to running an office or a home.

My friends, the Spirit of God is sovereign in all this. He is the one who determines what is important and what's not. If God has called you to organize a campaign or sew a dress, then do it. That's a gift. The Holy Spirit wants us to bring our gifts under the lordship of Jesus Christ and to put them to use.



We have three things to note here about our spiritual gifts. First, the *definition of a gift*.

## ① What is a gift?

A gift is the manifestation of the Spirit. If I may give my own simple definition, a gift is the Holy Spirit using the believer to do something through him. Anything Vernon McGee does in the flesh is useless to God, and God doesn't want it. Only what the Spirit of God does through us is of value. This is my reason for warning folk who have natural gifts (a natural gift of speaking, a natural gift of singing, etc.) that they should be dead sure the Holy Spirit is using that gift. Be very sure you're not just exercising a fleshly gift, but that the Spirit of God is using you. The reason why so many church services fall flat is that we have a demonstration of a natural gift rather than the Spirit of God doing something through a person.

## ② Who has a gift?

Every believer has a gift. Notice that “the manifestation of the Spirit is given to *each one*.” If you are a child of God, you have a gift. The Spirit of God has given you a gift, and you are to use it.

*If you are a believer,*  
YOU HAVE BEEN PUT  
*into the body of Christ*  
IN ORDER TO FUNCTION IN A VERY  
*definite capacity.*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



### ③ What's the purpose of gifts?

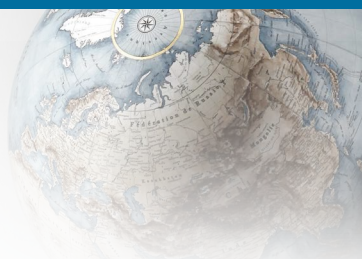
A gift is “given to each one for the profit of all.” Every believer has a gift and is placed in the body of Christ to function. The gift is operational. What is the purpose? Well, the purpose is to profit the body of believers. A gift is to be used in the church to build it up, to help the church. It is never given to help you in your personal spiritual life. No gift was ever given to be used for selfish purposes. Every gift is to be used to build up the body of believers. Paul developed this point with an illustration of the function of members of the human body. For instance, my eye has no business running off and operating on its own. It has to operate for the benefit of the rest of the body. That is the only way in the world a gift is to be exercised. Different gifts are given to believers to be exercised for the good of the church: for the profit, for the wealth of, for the building up of the church—“for the profit of all.”

There are many gifts today, just as there are many members of the body—and there are hundreds of members of the body. I think one of the tragedies of the hour in the modern church is that so many believers feel as if they have no gift at all. If you are a believer, you have been put into the body of Christ in order to function in a very definite capacity.

**Every believer in the church should be doing his or her own “thing.” God has called you to do something, and He’s gifted you to do it.**

## MY TURN

- ① **Do you know of anyone in the body of Christ who is using their spiritual gifts for the benefit of the body? Do they serve? Do they teach? Do they encourage?** Make an opportunity to affirm them in their exercise of their gift.
- ② **Read and ponder 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.**
- ③ **Do you recognize where the Spirit has gifted you to serve in the church? Do you teach a class? Do you lead a small group? Do you pray for others? Do you volunteer in the church office?** Ask God to help you see the way He has equipped you to fill in a need. Ask Him to help you use your gift to lead others to Jesus.



# HABITS OF A WORLD CHRISTIAN:

Get Ready for **GO** 2023!

## Jesus said, “Go.”

As His resurrected body ascended into the clouds, He said, *Take what you’ve heard and experienced and all you know about Me—and go share it with the world.*

He even offered a plan. *Start with where you are, then take the good news to the next town, the next region, working your way to the end of the earth.*

And then He offered this confidence: *And as you go, I will be with you.*



GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES

*of all the nations ....*

MATTHEW 28:19



**In this space every month, we learn about how our partnership with THRU the BIBLE is making that “go” command a reality. As we pray and support and engage with people worldwide on the Bible Bus, we see Jesus’ Great Commission ripple across the globe.** We hear people’s stories about what it’s like to hear the name of Jesus Christ for the first time. We learn how, even when their language and culture are different, people’s hearts respond to the study of God’s Word the same way ours do. And as our understanding expands, so does our vision for how God can use us. No longer do we see our country/culture/language as the center of the universe, but we become a world Christian—people who no longer focus only on our own needs, but as we focus on God, we become aware that the world needs Him, too.

## “The world next door ...”

In our lifetimes, the world has shrunk. In a matter of hours, we can physically be on the opposite side of the globe and in a matter of moments, digital technology can take God’s Word to anyone on the planet. And now if they want to study God’s Word, they can access it in their own heart language. A world Christian is thrilled to see this happen. As we pray for deploying technologies, logistics, and tools that ultimately help carry the message forward, we are confident that we contribute toward taking the whole Word to the whole world.

## “The world is my neighbor ...”

The nations that God loves are not just far off, but have come to our doorstep. They are exchange students, immigrants, refugees, and travelers. We can serve these neighbors and build bridges with the love of Christ. Sometimes, our new neighbors have come from difficult places where it’s not safe to discuss your faith. Now, they are free to ask questions and explore faith in this new world. And someday, if they return to their home country, they will take the gospel with them. Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus Christ with someone in your neighborhood from another culture.

## “The world on my prayer list ...”

God calls the world Christian to depend on Him to open doors, to give us the words to pray, to incline our hearts to how He is at work. Jesus Himself said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). If you are on the World Prayer Team, then you know all about how God is working and how when you pray, you join Him in that work (read James 5:16).

**Let’s encourage each other to be world Christians in 2023 and answer Jesus’ call to “go” together. Come back here every month to learn of a new way to go into all the world.**

“ How quickly a year passes! I realized this morning that I have been a member of the World Prayer Team for one full year. **How richly God blesses me through your daily prayer emails!**

What a privilege it is to be part of the team and intercede for people in the nations throughout the world. **The Holy Spirit touches my heart and brings tears to my eyes each day as I pray. How marvelous is our holy, loving God!**

In many of these letters, God is working in the lives of people living in areas hostile to Christianity. **The courage and great faith of these listeners encourages me and builds my faith .... I commend you for your obedience to our Lord and His great commission of Matthew 28:19-20.**

I appreciate your humor, positive attitude, and use of the latest technology. ”

**Martha**

*Thousand Oaks, California*



## THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE IN 2023

*"I squandered away so many years like a fool. Now I know better, so I will do better. I hope you will, too. Let's not waste any more time in sharing the Good News."*

That's the news Sanjay in Maharashtra, India, courageously shares with almost everyone he meets. Here's the rest of his story:

*"During my youth, I avoided all religion, but Christianity especially. One day I came across your radio program and was surprised by it. Soon I became a regular listener.*

*"Slowly God worked in my mind, and I realized I wasted so many days and years wandering in darkness. I started using my musical talents to praise Him in Christian gatherings and churches. My desire is to listen to the Word and speak the name of Jesus. There are so many people who still need to hear about Him. I want to be a part of that process. When I am finished with this life, I want to hear the words, 'Well done.'"*

Isn't that a great story? Let's not waste a moment of time in 2023, either! Today, pray God opens doors in India to reach the 95% who have never heard the precious name of Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help THRU the BIBLE walk through those doors powerfully and effectively this year. And finally, ask God to soften the hearts of those who are about to hear the best news they could ever hope for.

**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

## 1 & 2 Chronicles

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

**More than half the book of 1 Chronicles is about David's life. Near the end we read one of his great kingdom prayers:**

*"Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all."* –1 Chronicles 29:10-11

**Do these words sound familiar to you?** You will recall that when the disciples asked the Lord Jesus to teach them to pray, He gave them a model prayer. He took them right back here to David's prayer. "Thy kingdom come" was in David's heart. These brief and simple words gather up the aspiration and hopes of centuries.

**This is one of the greatest prayers in the Scriptures and certainly in the Old Testament.**

It is all-comprehensive, majestic, and filled with adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. It repudiates all human merit and declares human dependence upon God. It reveals self-humiliation, confession, and dedication of self. **It admits that all belongs to God.**

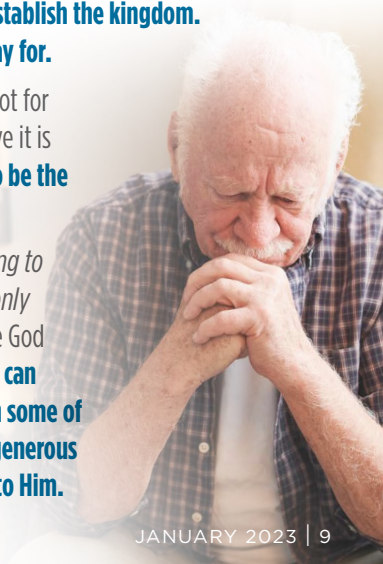
**David recognized that the kingdom is God's.** The Lord Jesus laid hold of this to teach His disciples about the reign of heaven over earth.

**God isn't ruling the earth today. If He were, we wouldn't have heartbreak, tears, disappointments, or wars. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can establish the kingdom.**

**"Thine is the kingdom." This is the kingdom we should pray for.**

It is my personal feeling that the so-called Lord's Prayer is not for public praying or use in the Sunday morning service. I believe it is good for private devotion. **"Thine is the kingdom" ought to be the prayer of every believer.**

David asks in verse 14, *Who am I that we should give anything to You, God? Everything we have has come from You, and we only give You back what is Yours already!* It's true—you can't give God anything because it belongs to Him in the first place. **But He can bless you when you give, and He will bless you. The reason some of us are so poor and narrow-minded is because we are not generous with God. God can only bless us when we open our hearts to Him.**





## First Things First

First things belong to God. We see that principle throughout the Bible.

**The first fruit of the harvest belongs to God. The first day of the week belongs to God. The first of our income belongs to God. Some would say the first minutes of the day belong to Him.**

Well, here we stand in the first weeks, days, and hours of a new year, and it is good for us to offer them to the Lord as we begin 2023. What will He do in and through us this year? My prayer is that He will do a lot. My hope is that when we meet here again in 2024 we would be different, and millions around the world will be different because of our choice to prioritize His Word in our lives and also in our mission to take His Word to the whole world.

**Let's invite Jesus Christ to take first place in our lives this year.**

To make Him our utmost priority. Thank you for your commitment and support in taking God's whole Word to the whole world in 2023. That's a mission we can be about every day of the new year and on into eternity.

*So that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

—Colossians 1:18 (NASB)

Grateful for you,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President

# WHY STUDY 1 & 2 CHRONICLES?

Join in the studies on  
THRU the BIBLE JANUARY 11—  
FEBRUARY 20 or anytime online,  
by podcast, or by mobile app.

Chronicles doesn't push the Bible narrative forward at all. Instead it retells Israel's history from God's perspective. When God's people were disciplined and fragmented, the stories of David and Solomon were retold as an encouragement to come back together to be God's people, set apart for His purposes. The stories of Chronicles cast a renewed vision of how to live in a blessed relationship with God.

*“When the Holy Spirit gave us the Word of God, He gave us a telescope. He surveys the landscape with us, then zeroes in on a particular portion and puts it under the microscope and lets us look at it in detail. This is what is happening in Chronicles.”* –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## KEY VERSE

*“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”* –2 Chronicles 16:9

### KINGS

Man's viewpoint of history

Political history of the nation

Told from the standpoint of the throne

The palace is center

### CHRONICLES

God's viewpoint of history

Religious history of the nation

Told from the standpoint of the altar

The temple is center

**1 & 2 CHRONICLES INTERPRET WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN 1 & 2 KINGS**

## WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT GOD FROM THE TIMES OF THE KINGS:

- We can choose the things that keep us in right relationship with God—or not.
- It all comes down to what we worship. Worshiping God brings life and blessing.
- How we relate to God defines everything about us.



# ON THE ROAD

Greetings

FROM THE BIBLE BUS

**“I took [TTB announcer] Steve Shwetz’s New Year challenge to read ahead in the Scriptures for the next study.** At first, I thought it might make me late to work, since I listen on the app in the morning as well as pray with the World Prayer Team, but somehow the Lord has been getting me to work even earlier than before. I enjoy seeing that I have underlined the same verses that Dr. McGee is emphasizing in the study. **It’s a confirmation from the Holy Spirit that I’m beginning to understand the great principles in the Word. I recommend everyone take this simple step of reading ahead.**

Maybe next year I will take Steve’s other advice and also reread that day’s Scripture! After all, **God is in charge of time, not the clock.”**

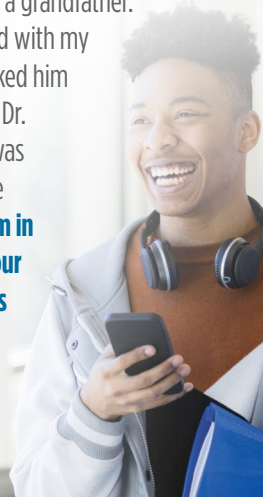
– From **Roberta** | Massachusetts

**“I’ve been listening to *Thru the Bible* since I was a small boy—in the car with my parents or at home.** I like Dr. McGee’s voice; it always felt to me like that of a grandfather. As I grew older, I came to deeply appreciate his preaching as well. I listened with my father and talked to him about the program many times, and one day I asked him if we might be able to go see Dr. McGee preach. That’s when I learned that Dr. McGee was already with the Lord—gone way before I was born. At first, I was disappointed, but have come to be glad that someone’s life could still have impact even long after his death. **I try to catch you every day, but since I’m in college the timing sometimes conflicts with class. I’m excited to know your app, since it now means I can listen to the program whenever I want. This is such a radical blessing! God’s Word will not return unto Him void. God bless you and keep going—there’s a new generation coming up with me who needs and wants to hear God’s Word.”**

–From a **college student** | Hallsville, Missouri

View the schedule or  
**download our convenient  
bookmark** at [TTB.org/schedule](http://TTB.org/schedule).

January 2023	
1 Monday	John 1:1-18
2 Tuesday	John 1:19-42
3 Wednesday	John 1:43-51
4 Thursday	John 2:1-11
5 Friday	John 2:12-22
6 Saturday	John 2:23-25
7 Sunday	John 3:1-21
8 Monday	John 3:22-36
9 Tuesday	John 3:37-44
10 Wednesday	John 4:1-26
11 Thursday	John 4:27-38
12 Friday	John 4:39-54
13 Saturday	John 5:1-18
14 Sunday	John 5:19-47
15 Monday	John 6:1-15
16 Tuesday	John 6:16-21
17 Wednesday	John 6:22-71
18 Thursday	John 7:1-13
19 Friday	John 7:14-24
20 Saturday	John 7:25-37
21 Sunday	John 7:38-53
22 Monday	John 8:1-12
23 Tuesday	John 8:13-20
24 Wednesday	John 8:21-30
25 Thursday	John 8:31-44
26 Friday	John 8:45-59
27 Saturday	John 9:1-17
28 Sunday	John 9:18-34
29 Monday	John 9:35-41
30 Tuesday	John 10:1-10
31 Wednesday	John 10:11-18



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