

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

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www.straitarrow.net

In This Issue

- All Things New?
- Message: Dare to Believe
- Website Features
- About Straight Arrow Ministries
- Featured Products
- Poets Corner—A Devotional Poem

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All Things New

With the advent of the Spring season comes an awakening from the winter in which much of God's creation was in a state of dormancy. Spring is the time for newness to spring forth.

What are the new things that God is desiring to spring forth in your lives? Spend some time thinking and mediating on this and then come into agreement with what God desires to spring forth in you.

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

Website Features

Devotional Poetry

Discover Ken's new Biblical Devotional Poetry by clicking below

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poems

Dare to Believe

In this article, we will see the hope that we as Christians have in Jesus Christ. The message of the resurrection of Christ has something for everyone, believer and unbeliever alike.

The resurrection of Jesus is:

- A message of salvation to all of those who are lost and without hope.
- A message of hope to all who have failed God in one way or another.
- A message of restored faith and belief to those who have given up.
- A message of joy and peace to those who are sinking in the mire of self-pity and despair.
- A message of purpose and destiny to those who are without direction and meaning in this life.
- A message of Christ's compassion and mercy in His dealings with mankind.
- A message of who Christ is. As the disciples failed to perceive the true nature of Christ prior to His resurrection, He uses the power of His resurrection to reveal His full nature.

The disciples and followers of Jesus who had been with Him prior to His crucifixion experienced all of these emotions because of His death and the events leading up to it. Now, of only they will dare to believe.

Dare to believe—Continued

These are common emotions that we all deal with from time to time. We must dare to believe as well before we can be restored.

My desire is that you would allow the message of Christ's resurrection minister and heal the area in your life that is in need of attention. Through the power of His resurrection He is able to touch you today because He is alive forevermore!

The week of Christ's death, burial and resurrection was a week that began with tremendous excitement and great expectations for these early followers of Christ.

The followers of Jesus were ready to crown Him as their King, only to have all of their hopes and expectations crushed because of His death.

They were unable to grasp the significance of what was taking place. Their belief in Christ was so shattered that even after His resurrection they were slow to believe.

All of Jesus' disciples and other followers forsook Him, one betrayed Him and one denied Him. *Matthew 26:56 says they all forsook Him.*

They had lost hope in the One who came to redeem them from the curse of the law. Peter was mired in self-pity and despair. *Matthew 26:75 says he went out and wept bitterly.*

The Path to Restored Faith and Belief.

As we begin to look at how Jesus went about restoring their faith and trust in Him I want you to see the compassion and understanding that Christ exercised in mending their fragile souls.

He began to replant the seeds of truth.

The empty tomb speaks and plants the seeds of faith and belief. *They are reminded of what Jesus had told them concerning rising from the dead.*

Luke 24:6-8 Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' "And they remembered His words.

The women go on to share with the disciples, but their words seemed like idle tales. They still did not believe, but enough of a seed was planted for them to begin to investigate the truth concerning the resurrection of Jesus.

Luke 24:9-11 *Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.*

Whenever the truth of God's Word comes into our hearing, whether it is for the first time or for a particular situation in our life, we have the choice of listening to the voice of doubt and unbelief or beginning an investigation by looking into the source of what we have heard. Peter could have listened to his doubts, but he chose to investigate further.

We must dare to believe even in the midst of the most intense and severe circumstances and bitter disillusionment.

What would have happened to Peter if he dared not to believe? His life would have ended in intense bitterness and resentment. But he resisted his doubts and dared to believe just as you and I must do at times.

When we do, God is faithful to reward us by opening the scriptures once again to our understanding so that we can see through the eyes of faith.

Jesus began to open their Understanding to the Scriptures.

We see this with the two men on the road to Emmaus who have the scriptures opened to them by Jesus — Luke 24:13-27.

Luke 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

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Dare to believe—Continued

These men were with the disciples when the women came to them with the report that Jesus had risen from the dead. The seeds of restored belief and faith had been planted in their hearts and now Jesus is opening their understanding to the word.

When we have an openness in our heart that puts us on an investigative course, God is faithful to open our understanding to His Word.

In order to see and believe in Jesus or in a fuller revelation of Him and His will for our lives, we must first have our understanding opened to it in the Word. This is what sustains our faith more than any personal experience. Experiences have a way of fading, but the word of God never fades or dims in our understanding.

Jesus Becomes Real - We See Him as the Living Resurrected Christ.

The more we experience the reality of Jesus Christ through His written Word the more we experience His manifested presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:36 *Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."*

We Receive the Complete Picture and Revelation of Who Christ Is.

Luke 24:45-46 *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day..."*

God's desire is to open our understanding so that we can see and experience His fullness, so that we will be fully equipped with every good thing to fulfill all that He has called us to in this life.

When we are able to see the full revelation of all God's attributes, we are not only healed from the despair and hopelessness, we are now able to fulfill the divine purpose and destiny He has laid out for our lives.

There is nothing more fulfilling than this! The disciples went forth in the power of the Holy Spirit with a conquering attitude after their belief was restored. We can do the same.

Ephesians 1:17-23 *...eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling...the exceeding greatness of His power...and the fullness of His body.*

In conclusion, I want to encourage you to dare to believe God for what is needed the most in your life. It doesn't matter how much you have sinned, how many times you have failed God or how many times you have closed your heart to Him. Open your heart to Him today and dare to believe, because He has risen from the dead and is alive forevermore.

They had given up all to follow Christ and now they were filled with bitterness and total disillusionment.

They no longer had the direction or meaning to life that they had experienced during the 3 1/2 years they had been with Jesus.

They were now lost and without hope. They were in need of a Savior.

But all of this was about to change because of the resurrection of Christ – **if only they would dare to believe once again.**

The beautiful thing about the resurrection of Christ is that Jesus understood and sympathized with their weakened condition. His immediate purpose following His resurrection was to restore their belief in Him.

Host a Seminar by Ken L. Birks

Ken Birks is available for seminars, men's retreats and other avenues of ministry that would fit into the life of the local church. The following is a list of seminars available for your church or ministry:

If your church or ministry would like to host a seminar, [click here](http://straitarrow.net/seminars) for complete information.

<http://straitarrow.net/seminars>

The Suffering Messiah

By Ken L. Birks

Born of a virgin He came forth with doubt now shown.
Wrongly accused of being illegitimate, He came to His own.
As a shining light He came into the world to give hope to all.
With false expectations cast upon Him, He went forth in His Father's will.
Rejected and tested by the religious leaders, He ministered to fulfill.

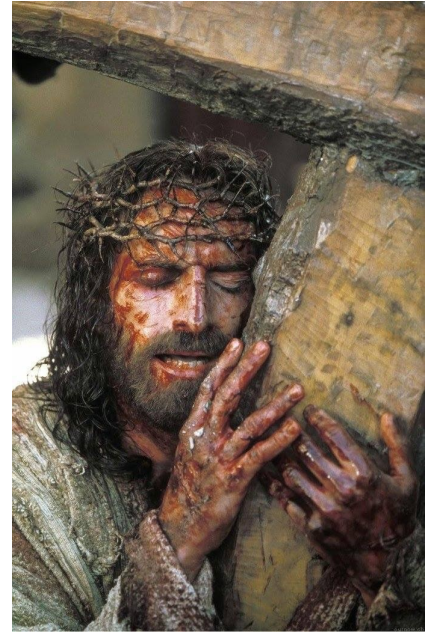
With mighty healing and miracles He confounded the wise.
They set their traps, but could not catch Him with their spies.
From another kingdom and perspective He spoke to those who heard.
Those who were unprepared could not see nor hear with hearts blurred.
In parables, He spoke to those with hearing hearts, prepared.

Entering Jerusalem on a colt, He was proclaimed as the coming King.
He came to proclaim a kingdom that was from another realm.
With false expectations realized, He was rejected in their downswing.
In the deepest of sorrow, those closest to Him slept as He distressed.
They came with swords and clubs in their hour of darkness to arrest.

Taken to Jewish authorities, falsely accused, His disciples fled in fear.
One of His closest denying Him, He looked on with sympathy, His friend so dear.
A crown of thorns placed on his head and given a purple robe, He was mocked.
Sentenced to a criminal's death, beaten beyond recognition, they were shocked.
As a lamb led to slaughter, so He was led to His place of sacrifice to pay.
Acquainted with sorrows and bitter grief, we turned our backs, looking away.

Our sins, sorrows and grief bore down upon Him as He hung on the cross.
With blood dripping, His Father couldn't look as He became sin for us.
He cried out in agony, "Why have You forsaken Me?" Loosing touch.
He gave up His spirit as He took our punishment, being wounded for our sins.
In giving His back to the smiters, and chastised for our peace, we're healed, He wins.
Like a flash of lightning, He rises from the dead in victory to free us from our sins.

"We despised Him and rejected Him—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised, and we didn't care. It was our grief He bore, our sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, for His sins! But He was wounded and bruised for our sins. He was chastised that we might have peace; He was lashed—and we were healed! (Isaiah 53:3-10 Living Bible)"



About Straight Arrow Ministries

Straight Arrow Ministries believes in the integrity of God's Word. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

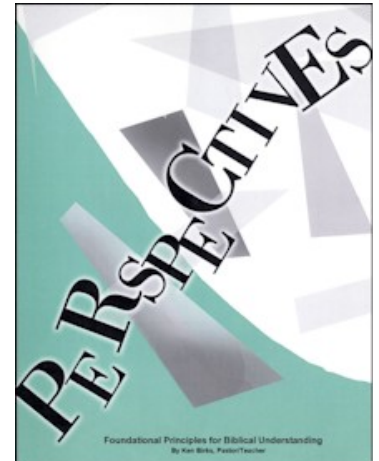
Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries

Perspectives Course & Class

The Perspectives Course includes foundations for biblical understanding that were developed for providing believers lessons that are designed to give solid Biblical foundations in the elementary truths of God's Word. They are designed with three things in mind—building a doctrinal foundation, developing godly character and discover and finding their destiny and purpose God has for them.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

[Please Click Here for Complete Info and How to Order](#)

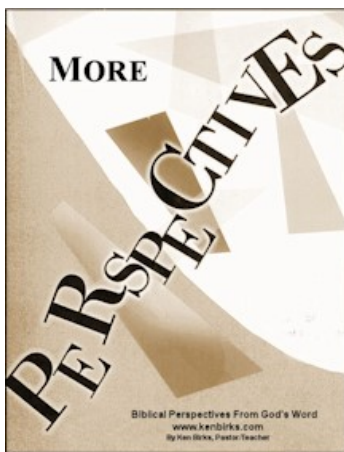


More Perspectives Course and Class

This course features lessons that are focused on three major areas of our Christian growth—doctrine, character and destiny. It includes more advanced subjects for the believer that are designed to give a deeper Biblical understanding of God's Word that will strengthen the Christian foundation.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

[Please Click Here for Complete Info and How to Order](#)

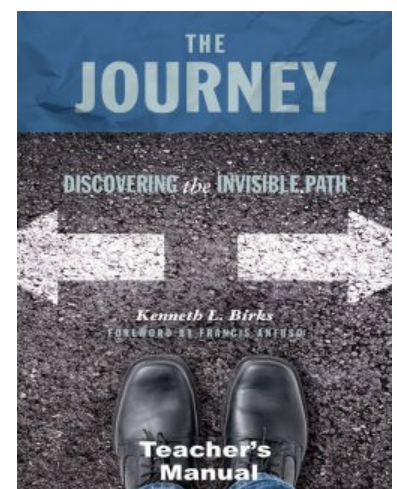


The Journey Workbooks & Class

This class is designed to go along with the book that Ken has written on "The Journey." It includes ten lessons.

The goal of the class is to give you a glimpse into the path God has purposed for your life and to help you seize your destiny and purpose. In doing so, you will be able to live the role created for you. Whether you're just starting out on your journey, anywhere in the middle, or have become de-toured and lost your way, this practical seminar will help shine the light on the invisible path that not only leads to God's goodness and experiencing His kingdom within, but also to the greatest adventure of your life!

[Please Click here for complete info and How to Order](#)



Please Note: All of these workbooks come in both Teacher's and Student's Manuals. You can order both Teacher and Student manuals if you want to incorporate them into the life of your church or ministry or you can order the Teacher's Manual only for personal Bible study.