

# Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

## Straight Arrow Ministries

December 2016 — Volume 1, Issue 1

[www.straitarrow.net](http://www.straitarrow.net)

### In This Issue

- Our First Newsletter
- Message: Mary's Realized Hope
- About Straight Arrow Ministries
- Featured Product
- Devotional Thoughts
- Bible Study — Why Study the Bible
- Website Features

### Join our Mailing List

[www.kenbirks.com/email-subscription.htm](http://www.kenbirks.com/email-subscription.htm)

### Straight Arrow Ministries First Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries was founded in 2004 and receives over 5000 unique visitors a week to its websites. In the coming year we will be launching into more ministries such as seminars and webinars that feature the teaching ministry of Ken Birks. With the advent of new ministries, we thought a newsletter would be in order. This is the first of many to come with the hope of reaching as many people as possible with the truth of God's word in love and balance.

### Website Features

#### Top Ten Bible Studies

Ministry of the Holy Spirit  
Baptism of the Holy Spirit  
The Healing Covenant  
The Mystery of the Godhead  
Predestination or Foreknowledge & More

Click here: [www.straitarrow.net/bible-studies](http://www.straitarrow.net/bible-studies)



### Mary's Realized Hope

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year as we reflect upon all that the birth of Christ means to us. The birth of Christ brings hope and light to all who are without hope and walking in darkness.

In this message we see how the birth of this child was the realized hope for Mary, the mother of Jesus. It gave her the faith that was needed as she raised this child for God.

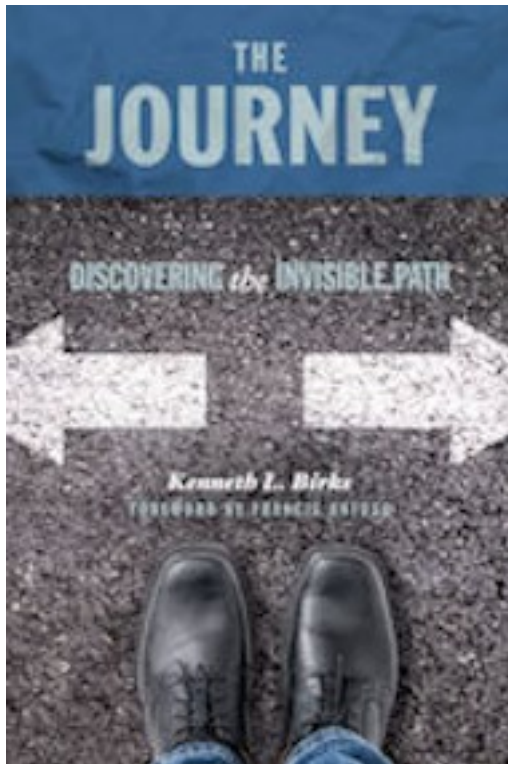
#### The Birth of Christ.

*Luke 2:6-7 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger.*

We all have a tendency to long for the sensational—for the great miracles and startling evidences of God's presence. But the greatest miracle ever known to mankind was done in quietness and in simplicity of daily life common to millions. We find this in Mary's realized hope. As Mary realized the fulfillment of her hope, we can all experience realized hope. As she experienced faith through her hope, we can experience faith from the hope God puts in our hearts.

The rebirth of hope that God desires to come forth in our lives is much similar. The great things God desires to do in our lives often bear this same stamp—the stamp and seal of commonness of God's mighty, yet unobtrusive, work in God's people everywhere. *(Continued on Page 3)*

## Featured Product



To Purchase this book in bulk for small group studies or Bible Study Classes see the following website where companion workbooks are also available in teacher and student formats.

[www.straitarrow.net/resources/journey-tools.htm](http://www.straitarrow.net/resources/journey-tools.htm)

## Ken's new book: The Journey Discovering the Invisible Path

The goal of this book is to give you, as a Christian, 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 are just starting out on your journey, anywhere in the middle, or have become detoured and lost your way, this practical guidebook 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.

Comments: The Journey is your GPS for the Bible. The problem is solved. The riddle is deciphered. Like a trusted guide, Ken makes complex concepts simple and masterfully unpacks the Bible's greatest mysteries. He provides a sure foundation upon which to build a lifetime of insight.—*Francis Anfuso*

I recommend this book to individuals, to small group leaders, to pastors, to churches, to Bible schools, and to seminaries. "The Journey" will help make disciples out of believers. —  
*Richard C. Benjamin Sr., Pastor/retired*

### Purchase Paperback Edition for \$12.95 + Shipping

Available in eBook Formats for all Devices

Amazon - Kindle | iBooks - iPad & iPhone

Nook - Samsung, Droid | Smashwords - All Devices

See [www.booksbyken.com](http://www.booksbyken.com) for details

## 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, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

We believe in the divine harmony of Scriptures with Scripture interpreting Scripture rather than relying on a particular school of thought. No doctrine is an island unto itself. It must harmonize with the entire Bible. We should be loyal to the Scriptures rather than a particular school of thought. Whether it's through Seminars, Bible Studies, Sermon Outlines or Podcasts, we strive to maintain an integrity to the purity of God's Word so that those who hear are instructed in righteousness, given good sound doctrine and thoroughly equipped for every good work. Building a solid foundation in God's Word is of the utmost importance with precept upon precept and line upon line being established so that the deeper truths have a foundation from which they have been built upon.

### *Mary's Realized Hope Continued*

When God came to us, it wasn't necessarily with a big splash or shining light. He came in the simplicity of daily life that is common to mankind.

As we mature and grow in Christ, His mighty work is often done in this same manner—in simplicity and quietness. This is the work of Christ that continually brings forth the rebirth of hope in our lives. It begins with the birth of His Spirit and continues as we faithfully follow His quiet leadings.

### **Jesus' Birth Represented Realized Hope**

Mary had received a visit from the angel, Gabriel, about the child she was to bear and how He would grow up to save His people from their sins. Mary had received some wonderful promises that brought a great sense of hope to her spirit.

Her response was one of simple childlike faith without hesitation and doubt. She replied, "*Let it be to me according to your word.*" Now with His birth all of this hope was being realized and fulfilled in her life.

## Devotional Thoughts

In every generation there are heroes and villains that are worshipped and then forgotten. But the name of Christ is a name that has been worshipped from generation to generation.

The Christmas season can be a time when we actually get distracted from the true worship of Christ and seem to get caught up in the hustle and bustle that has resulted from the way the world has chosen to commercialize and market this yearly event. On the other hand, millions upon millions of people from every tribe and nation in the world are being reminded once again of the miracle of Christ's birth. This is the sign that was given to the world by God to bring mankind into salvation and relationship with their God. It is a sign to all generations. Pray for all those whom you know who do not know Jesus, will come to know Him.

*Psalms 45:17 "I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever."*

Mary knew in her heart of hearts that only God could have impregnated her. The birth of Jesus revealed to her the reality of God, with her hope fully realized. The seed of hope was planted when she believed without doubting.

### **It's God Who Births Faith & Hope Into Our Lives**

Mary simply allowed God to prepare her heart along the way for God's intervention into her life (John 6:44-45). Through the circumstances of life, she had kept her heart soft and pliable.

When we respond in simple childlike faith and obedience to the drawing of the Father just as Mary did, God is able to birth faith and hope into our lives as well.

Keeping our hearts open and trusting is what continually brings forth the rebirth of hope in each of our lives.

To download this message in its entirety, please click [www.kenbirks.com/outlines/hope-rebirth-2.pdf](http://www.kenbirks.com/outlines/hope-rebirth-2.pdf)

## Why Study the Bible

It's imperative that as Christians we understand why we believe what we believe. It gives us an authority in God's Word. It's not enough to just believe something because we heard it in a sermon or when shared by someone we respected. We all have a responsibility to search the Scriptures for ourselves.

The apostle Paul said the Bereans were more fair-minded than the Thessalonians because they searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether the things he was saying were true. He also said we should be diligent to study so that we could rightly divide the Scriptures. *2Timothy 2:15*

The writer of the Book of Hebrews refers to those who are unskilled in the Word as babes in Christ, who are still in need of solid food. *Hebrews 5:12-6:1-3*

It goes on to say, the elementary principles of Christ must be established in our lives before we can go on to maturity. A proper foundation needs to come forth. Bible Study not only helps us to fulfill this purpose, but also helps to fulfill our destiny.