

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

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In This Issue

- Becoming Flames of Fire
- Message: Prophetic Purposes of God
- Website Features
- About Straight Arrow Ministries
- Featured Products
- Poets Corner—A Devotional Poem

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Becoming Flames of Fire

- Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit
- Understand the Sanctifying Process
- Be Fully Committed to God's Purposes
- Know How to Wait on the Lord
- Know Your Place of Ministry
- Walk in the Fear of the Lord
- Rightly Divide Word of Truth

This issue deals with the aspect of becoming flames of fire as we minister to one another and the world around us as we are sent forth to fulfill the purposes of God.

Website Features

Devotional Poetry

Discover Ken's new Biblical Devotional Poetry by clicking below

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Prophetic Purposes and the Zeal of the Lord

Throughout Biblical history God has specific plans for the ages including our present age. His prophetic purposes for the nation of Israel, the Church, and mankind in general are all defined.

Of all that the prophets foretold and came pass throughout the ages, God has chosen to use human instruments as His means of bringing to pass His prophetic purposes.

Even though the Father uses us as His instruments of righteousness, it is in His sovereignty and zeal that He performs on our behalf as ministers of flaming fire, fulfilling is prophetic purposes.

Psalm 104:3-4 who makes the clouds His chariot, who walks on the wings of the wind, ***4who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.***

Isaiah speaks of how the zeal of the LORD performs His prophetic purposes. It was the His zeal that brought forth the Messiah, whose name was to be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace!

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. ***7Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice. From that time forward, even forever the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.***

Prophetic Purposes Continued

Isaiah's prophecy speaks of the prophetic purposes of God from the date of the Messiah coming forth, to the end of this age, and throughout all eternity – a time in which the kingdom of God will continue to expand and grow. The zeal of the LORD will continue to bring it forth through His chosen instruments of grace. He will perform on our behalf just as He has done since the beginning of time.

Patriarchs from the Old Testament.

A quick look through the Old Testament reveals to us how God has always used His chosen vessels to bring forth His prophetic purposes.

Abraham – was sought out by God for His purposes – *Gen12:1-3*.

Jacob – gives birth to the twelve tribes of Israel after the dream of a ladder from earth to heaven with angels of God ascending and descending on it. In the dream, God renewed the covenant He had made with Abraham – *Genesis 28:10-22*.

Joseph – received dreams and visions of how God was going to use him in relationship to his purposes, bringing the Israelites to Egypt where God molded them into the Nation of Israel – *Genesis 37:5-11*.

Moses – was God's chosen instrument to lead the children of Israel out of bondage from the Egyptians, when He came to him in a burning bush. – *Exodus 3:1-8*.

Joshua – was the one who was chosen to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. Before Joshua could begin his first great conquest, he meets the commander of the Lord's army and must submit to him before receiving instructions for the next step – *Joshua 1:2, 5:13-15*.

All of these patriarchs just mentioned were not only used to influence their generations but were also used to alter the course of history, moving the people of God forward in the plans and purposes of God. They came forth as the zeal of the Lord of Hosts moved with flaming fire to fulfill His prophetic purposes.

Old Testament Prophets.

In the same way that God spoke and directed the Patriarchs of old, He continued to communicate with judges, kings, and prophets throughout the Old Testament, giving them direction for His plans to shape the nation of Israel and other countries.

Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals*

His secret to His servants the prophets.

People like Gideon, Deborah, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, and others were all used in God's divine plans and purposes. The zeal of the Lord performed on their behalf to speak and bring forth His prophetic purposes in the earth.

Jesus, the Fulfillment.

Jesus came as the fulfillment of all that these Old Testament patriarchs, judges, kings, and prophets had spoken about. He came to do the will of God, His Father. He came as a man, entirely dependent upon the Holy Spirit to perform through Him the Father's will. He came to show us how to minister as flames of fire as we serve the purpose of God for our generations.

The prophet Joel had much to say concerning the New Testament era. He prophesied that God's Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh, not just a select few as had been under the Old Covenant.

Joel 2:28-29 *And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

The Birth of the Church and the Prophetic Purposes of God.

The fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy came on the day that the feast of Pentecost was fully fulfilled, giving birth to the Church. The Holy Spirit came suddenly as a sound from heaven as a mighty rushing wind with tongues of fire.

These disciples were immediately caught up in the prophetic purposes of their Lord. As a result, they went everywhere as flames of fire with the zeal of the Lord performing His will through them.

The point is; God the Father has prophetic purposes to be fulfilled in His sovereignty. It is in His zeal that He makes it happen through the chosen vessels who sanctify and consecrate themselves unto God's purposes.

The prophet Joel spoke of visions and dreams being poured out on all flesh as the Holy Spirit was to be released to make His servants flames of fire. We see this in the life of Peter as he went forth as a flame of fire with the zeal of the Lord of Hosts performing through them.

Straight Arrow Ministries—Poet's Corner

Prophetic Purposes Continued

Peter's Example.

Peter had many amazing experiences such as receiving a strategic vision of the Lord of Hosts fulfilling the prophetic purpose of bringing the Gentiles into the Church.

The incident of Cornelius, a Gentile, receiving a vision from the Lord to call for Peter, reveals one of the strategic ways in which God makes His ministers flames of fire while He brings about His prophetic purposes in the earth.

Acts 10:3 *About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"*

Cornelius was given specific instructions to send men to Joppa for Peter. The next day as they went on their journey to find him, Peter had gone up on his rooftop to pray. While praying, he too received a vision from the Lord – **Acts 10:9-16**.

As Peter was pondering over the vision and what it meant, the three men who had been sent by Cornelius appeared at his door asking for him. While thinking about the vision, the Holy Spirit spoke telling him to go with them, doubting nothing.

The next day upon arriving at the house of Cornelius, Peter began to share the message of Christ, and how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power.

The instance of Peter and Cornelius is an astonishing example of how the Father in His zeal works with His chosen vessels as flames of fire to bring about His prophetic purposes in the earth. In His zeal, He made His sovereignty happen with the vessels He had chosen. Both Peter and Cornelius were vessels who had prepared themselves by walking in obedience to what they knew at the time.

Just as the zeal of the Lord has performed throughout history to fulfill His prophetic purposes, He shall continue to do so until we receive the new heavens and earth.

The Lord has been Sovereignly Active throughout History.

Of all the events that have happened throughout the ages, the season we are about to enter into is probably the greatest of all seasons. Of all that was prophesied by the prophets is about to be fulfilled.

We are now coming to the end of this present age as we await the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Much has been

written and prophesied about this era through prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Paul the apostle, and John, the disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ.

Those who are consecrated and committed to His prophetic purposes will find themselves caught up in His prophetic zeal as flames of fire going forth from the positions they have been ordained to perform in. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will make this happen.

The Time of Preparation is Now!

The period we are about to enter into requires that we prepare for what God is about to do. He uses those who were ready and willing as His vessels unto honor.

God is looking for vessels of honor – those who have prepared and made themselves ready for what He is about to do.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. ²¹Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the master, prepared for every good work.*

God will have a people at the end of the age, who will be fully committed to Him and His prophetic purposes.

This is a condensed version of the full article. To download the complete article, please

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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. Click below for a list of seminars available for your church or ministry:

If your church or ministry would like to host a seminar, [click here](#) for complete information

If you would like to donate to this ministry, please click the PayPal button below:

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About Straight Arrow Ministries

Straight Arrow Ministries is a Bible Teaching Ministry, both online and offline. The online ministry reaches over 6000 unique visitors a week from all over the world. It offers Bible Studies, Podcasts, Seminars, Sermon Outlines and other resources to help build and strengthen the body of Christ. Most materials are free of charge so that the body of Christ can be equipped for the work of the ministry. Pastor Ken Birks is also available for speaking engagements such as Bible Seminars, Men's Retreats and other avenues of ministry to help build the local church.

The divine harmony of Scriptures with Scripture interpreting Scripture rather than relying on a particular school of thought is the essence of how the word of God is taught. No doctrine is an island unto itself. They must harmonize with the entire Bible. Loyalty to the Scriptures rather than a particular school of thought is the basis of what is taught. Whether it's through Seminars, Bible Studies, Sermon Outlines or Podcasts, it is important to maintain an integrity to the purity of God's Word. This is what enables believers who hear to be instructed in righteousness and given good sound doctrine so that they are 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 to be built upon.

The Poets Corner

A Little History

Wings of the Wind and Flames of Fire

By Ken L. Birks

He comes on the wings of the wind,
filling our vessels.

With clouds as His chariot, He comes
to set us aflame.

With rushing winds, He comes with
tongues of fire to ignite.

Filled with flaming fire, His vessels go
forth in His Name.

With great expectancy, His name is
proclaimed with might.

With passion ignited, transforming
power produces purity.

As the chaff begins to burn; the
old disappears into ashes.

As His gentle breeze blows, newness
comes with surety.

With each new day, there's an expect-
ation of what's ahead

As the chaff continues to burn, old
strongholds disintegrate.

Made anew by His Spirit, vision and
purpose are awakened.

Divine abilities and gifts are birthed,
giving sail to the wind.

Flames ignite with explosive power,
giving birth to ministry.

With the mind of Christ, confidence
explodes with desire.

Clothed with splendor, He makes His
ministers flames of fire.

The Zeal of the Lord will perform all
that is written in His Word.

With flaming fire, He goes forth on
behalf of His church, the bride.

From the wings of the wind, He
breathes on the dry bones to awaken.

With explosive power, saints are
infused with authority from on high.

With His mighty wind, He gives sail to
all who watch and standby.

Clothed with the sun, moon and stars,
His bride is fully dressed.

As a chaste virgin, she stands in the
fullness of the stature of Christ.

Wedding garments in place, she's
made ready for her day, now near.

The Bridegroom will come in the
clouds of heaven to receive her.

Joined together, she'll be known as
He's known, now consummated.

Scripture References: Psalm 104:3-4,
Acts 2:1-4, Mark 16:15-18, Romans 8:11,
Matthew 3:11-12, Ephesians 1:17-18, 2
Peter 1:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:6-7, Acts 1:8,
Psalm 104:4, Isaiah 9:7, Ezekiel 37:1-13,
Luke 10:19, Matthew 25:13, Revelation
12:1, 19:7, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians
4:13, Matthew 24:30, 1 Corinthians 13:12,
1 John 3:2.

About Ken L. Birks

Ken Birks is an ordained Pastor/Teacher in the Body of Christ and is one of the pastors at The Rock of Roseville in Roseville, California where he also functions as a Bible teacher. Ken has been a part of The Rock of Roseville since its inception in 1997.

Prior to coming to The Rock of Roseville, Ken was the Senior Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, Spirit-filled church, for twelve years.

Ken's primary gift is in the area of teaching. He teaches the word of God with passion and balance with a prophetic slant.

He has an intense desire to impart a genuine love and appreciation for God's Word. He is called to teach and preach God's word and write in way that helps to shape and influence the minds and hearts of God's people everywhere.

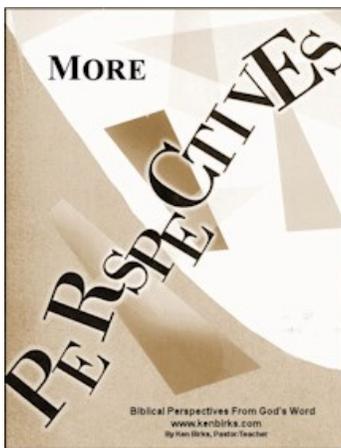
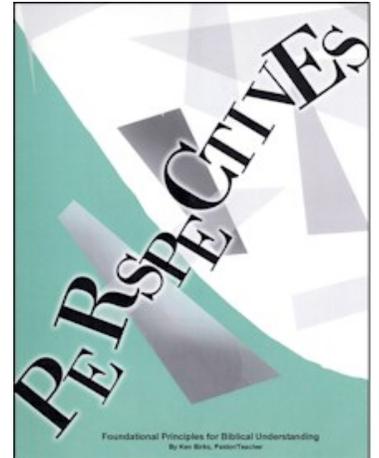
Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries

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.

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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.

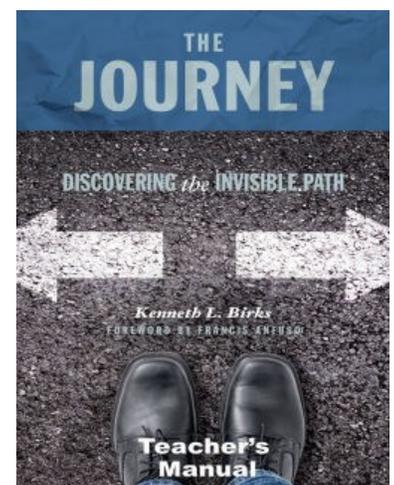
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The Journey Workbooks & Class

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!

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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.