

Biblical, Devotional Poetry

Treasures from The Heart

By Ken L. Birks

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Biblical Devotional Poetry Table of Contents

1. [Unlocking Treasures of the Heart](#)
2. [Staring into the Future](#)
3. [Hearts Freely & Totally Committed](#)
4. [The Sanctifying Process](#)
5. [Waiting on the Lord](#)
6. [The Beast of the Sea](#)
7. [Dining at the Father's Table](#)
8. [Embracing the Fear of the Lord](#)
9. [Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth](#)
10. [Prophetic Purposes to be Fulfilled](#)
11. [Riding with Dylan](#)
12. [Homeward Bound](#)
13. [In Sync with God's Purposes](#)

Click on Title Links for Poem & then on Title link to come back to Table of Contents

Unlocking Treasures of the Heart – *By Ken L. Birks*

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Hidden away in obscurity, desires unachieved lie in wait.
As areas of the heart remain locked, destiny lingers.
Hidden deep in the recesses of the heart, treasures await.
In obscurity that which begs to be opened is unlocked.
With the eyes of understanding enlightened, discovery inflates.

Holding the keys to the heart, Insight reveals the kingdom within.
As questions seize the heart, light breaks thru the cracks therein.
Revelation and insight give way to that which has been locked.
With treasures glimpsed, hope appears from that which is exposed.
Undetected areas of the heart come forth with treasures disclosed.

Destiny no longer lingers and waits with divine abilities unearthed.
Faith moves forward as all things that pertain to life are dispersed
With treasures opened, the heart presses forward in fervency.
Forgetting the past, it reaches forward, laying hold, fearlessly.
Free from the bondage of darkness, the heart rejoices in discovery.

As seasons come and go, new treasures appear when required.
With each season, new treasures of the heart must be opened.
He who has the keys to the kingdom is faithful to give the keys desired.
Abilities, innate and divine, break forth as the keys unlock new treasures.
Oh, that I might know Him, who has the keys to the kingdom.

Scripture References: Proverbs 15:6, 21:20, Isaiah 33:6, 45:3, Matthew 13:44, Ephesians 1:17, 5:14, Psalm 112:4, 119:130, 2 Corinthians 4:6, 2 Peter 1:3-4, Philippians 3:12-14, Ephesians 5:8, Matthew 16:19, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22.

Staring into the Future – *by Ken L. Birks*

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Staring into the future, thoughts drift away in hopelessness.
Where are the thoughts that once filled the mind with excitement?
In disparity, thoughts of uncertainty, fear, and unbelief filled the heart.
Waves of discouragement and disillusionment brought forth weariness.
Where are the dreams and desires that once captured the heart?

Staring into the future, we question, where has the time vanished?
Is there time to fulfill dreams and aspirations that once ruled the spirit?
Is the gift given with a promise for the future still alive with expectation?
Is it too late to breathe deep and allow His presence to come with passion?
While Satan plunders, Jesus comes to give abundantly, filling the gap.

Staring into the future with that which is true, breathes impetus.
Thoughts brought into His captivity bring forth hope that's limitless.
Looking back to past victories allows faith to arise on the horizon.
Girding up the loins of the mind, brings forth focus with determination.
Gifts are uncovered as new life and hope burst forth in a new season.

Staring into the future, firmly planted, His abilities allow a fresh start.
Doubt, and confusion wash away, as fresh vision fills the heart.
Confidence embraces the heart with new strength, now shown.
Joy floods the soul, preparing the way for paths unknown.
Staring into the future, uncertainty is now replaced with faith.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/future

Hearts Freely and Totally Committed – *By Ken L. Birks*

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Saved according to God's purposes we're drawn.
Filled with excitement and wonder, we respond
With hearts engaged, we come with expectation.
Having tasted of His goodness, we commit to Him.
With hearts filled with hunger, we ask for more.

What is it that is that is required, we ask?
Hearts freely and totally committed, He responds.
What does that entail and what's the cost, we ask?
Hearts committed as living sacrifices, He responds.
With hearts filled with questions, we count the cost.

He looks down from heaven to find those who seek.
Will we be those whom He finds, we wonder?
As we count the cost and fully commit, He finds.
Now ready to fully discover what's ahead, we engage.
With hearts fully set on His purposes, we rejoice.

With hearts fully engaged, we discover His gifts.
We learn to behave like Christians, walking in obedience.
We learn to be fervent in spirit, rejoicing in hope.
We learn to be patient in tribulation, counting it all joy.
We are sensitive to the needs of others, clinging to goodness.

No longer slaves to sin, we're untangled from worldly affairs.
With our decisions now based on kingdom realities, we rejoice.
No longer my will, but His will, we freely give generously.
Walking circumspectly, time is redeemed for His desires.
Freely and totally committed, we bask in His goodness.

Scripture References: *2 Timothy 1:8-9, 1 Peter 2:1-3, Luke 14:27-30, Psalm 14:2, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 12:9-21, 2 Timothy 2:1-4, Matthew 6:33, Mark 14:36, Ephesians 5:15, Matthew 6:19-21.*

The Sanctifying Process – *by Ken L. Birks*

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One offering, perfected forever, we are sealed.
Predestined to be conformed to His image, we yield.
Entering into God's prophetic purposes, we arrive.
Ears trained to hear His voice, He directs, we thrive.
The work of Christ finished, the Spirit's work drives.

Vessels of Honor, we seek to be as He purifies.
With unquenchable fire, the chaff burns away.
Walking in the Spirit, fleshly lusts disappear.
The process endures, keeping our eyes on His visage.
Change comes, glory to glory, beholding His image.

Having begun in the Spirit, the enemy subverts.
Shifting our attention to legalism, Satan beguiles.
We rest in the Word to protect, aware of Satan's wiles.
God's works are birthed, immersed in His workmanship.
From glory to glory, the process continues to equip.

With spiritual eyes opened, His wonders never cease.
Submitting His Word, His thoughts are embedded.
With minds filled with insight, newness exceeds.
Yielding, new nature comes forth, replacing oldness.
Submitting to God's ways, the enemy leaves.

Pressing on, we stretch forward to things ahead.
Forgetting the past, we press forward in destiny.
From glory to glory, the prize within sight, we tread.
As vessels of honor, we engage in prophetic purposes.
Pressing on, we live by this rule as we are lead.

Waiting on the Lord — *by Ken L. Birks*

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Waiting on the Lord, our lamps are kept fully lit.
With strength and vitality, we press on to outwit.
Into spiritual realms unknown, He takes us, fully abandoned.
Mounting up on the wings of an eagle, we don't faint.
Governed by the Spirit, we're free to soar without constraint.

With hearts of expectation, we embrace all that is decreed.
The Spirit searches the Father's heart to reveal all that we need.
With the divine nature imparted, perspectives in life change.
As we wait on the Lord, He generously pours into our hearts.
With the mind of Christ, exceeding greatness is known in all parts.

As we believe and confess, faith arises to meet expectations.
Acknowledging God in all our ways, He directs our aspirations.
Fully convinced of His promises, we wait on Him who performs.
Trusting in Him, we wait as He brings to pass our desires.
Submitting our souls, paths are made straight for what He requires.

With an ear to His voice, we listen and wait as He instructs.
In presenting our prayers and petitions, He listens and conducts.
Praying without ceasing, our minds are stayed on Him.
With a still small voice, He whispers in our ears, His secrets.
Responding to His whispering, we go from faith to faith as zealots.

As we wait on Him, gifts arrive for serving and ministry.
Being attentive to the needs of others, we wait in symmetry.
With selfish ambitions set aside, we minister, accordingly.
In serving and waiting on others, grace flows in new dimensions.
We soar to new heights as we wait on Him who strengthens.

The Beast from the Sea — *by Ken L. Birks*

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The man of sin comes as the beast from the sea to scheme.
With horns and crowns on his head, he comes to blaspheme.
Like a leopard and feet of a bear, he comes with vengeance.
With a mouth like a lion, he receives power to kill and devour.
With great authority, he is released with Satan's full power.

With hate and deception, he comes to destroy and terminate.
In the full incarnation of evil, he comes to impersonate.
Coming as the man of sin he sits as God in the temple.
He opposes and is exalted above all that is called God.
With rage, war breaks out in heaven, causing all to tremble.

Cast down from heaven, he wages war against all Christians.
He comes to kill those who are to rule the kingdom with a rod of iron.
Caught up to heaven as first fruits, the Father takes possession.
Filled with rage, Satan sends a flood to drown and destroy the bride.
God, rescues her on the wings of a great eagle, giving ride.

Given power over the remnant left behind, he seeks to destroy.
Strong delusion comes, giving him exceeding power to trap.
With signs and wonders, he deceives those on earth with ploys.
With great power, he causes all to receive his mark or be killed.
As his mark is received, multitudes fall away, being grilled.

With the righteous ones removed, the fury of the Lord is released.
To those who receive his mark, seven angels appear with plagues.
Grievous sores, blood in seas, rivers, scorching fire, and earthquakes.
For three and a half years they're tormented, while the bride feasts.
Kept from the hour of trial coming upon the whole world, she escapes.

Taking vengeance with 10,000s of His saints, the King of Kings descends.
Those killed by the beast rise in the clouds to meet Him as they ascend.
From her place of safety and refuge the bride rises to meet them in the air.
Bound for a thousand years, the beast no longer blasphemes or snares.
Tormented day and night, they're cast into the lake of fire with the tares.

Scripture References: *Revelation 13:1-7, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 9, Revelation 12:7-9, 12:3-5, 2:13-17, 13:7, 15-16, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, Revelation 16:1-7, 2:10, Jude 1:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Revelation 20:1-5, 7-12.*

Dining at the Father's Table — by Ken L. Birks

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Unformed, our days were fashioned when they were nonexistent.
Filled with questions, we search for answers concerning existence.
With exquisite spiritual food set, the Father invites us to His table.
As we come in His presence to dine, we ponder where to recline.
He fills us with answers to the mysteries of life while we dine.

Finding our place, nourished and encouraged, hearts are set free.
Responding in faith to His invitation, we exult exceedingly with glee.
Saved according to His purposes, we go forth with free will.
Embracing the cross with death to self, we fully embrace His will.
As flames of fire, He empowers us to minister with purpose to fulfill.

Discovery of spiritual gifts brings us to deeper levels of perceptions.
Intimately acquainted with our ways, the Father positions.
In the place fashioned by Him, He knows what gifts are needed.
He seats us accordingly as we are fitted and framed into place.
From our chosen place at the table, He sends us in His grace.

As seasons come and go, gifts continue to unlock the future.
Creative abilities once locked are unlocked as ministries evolve.
As we continue to dine with a Him, He abundantly supplies.
No longer worried what the future holds, we go forth in His love.
Oh, what a pleasure to continually dine at the Father's table.

Scripture references: *Psalm 23:5, Psalm 139:16, Revelation 3:20, Ephesians 1:17-19, Psalm 16:11, 2 Timothy 1:9, Matthew 16:24, Psalm 104:4, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:7, Psalm 139:3, 16, 68:6, 1 Corinthians 12:18, Ephesians 4:16, Acts 13:1-3, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Corinthians 9:8-10, Psalm 36:8, Matthew 6:25-34.*

Embracing the Fear of the Lord – by Ken L. Birks

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Coming to the Father, we stand in awe of all that He is.
To all who pass by, He is greatly to be feared and revered.
In His goodness and severity, we learn from Him.
Trembling at His word, wisdom and knowledge are imparted.
In the congregation of the saints, He is to be feared.

As Moses said, we are to fear God and walk in His ways.
As Isaiah said, we are to let Him be our fear.
As Jesus said, fear Him who can destroy your soul in Hell.
As Peter said, pass the time of sojourning in fear.
It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God.

As we fear God, perfect love casts out all fear.
As we tremble at His Word, He blesses beyond measure.
Working out salvation in fear and trembling, He works.
In His severity, He is perfectly righteous in all His ways.
As He examines, our ways are in full view of Him.

As we stand before Him, we embrace His discipline.
With every secret thought, we know He's watching.
As we stand in righteousness, we hate sin and evil.
In fear, we recognize the reality of Hell.
In fear, we understand He cuts off those who disown.

To those who fear Him, His loving kindness is understood.
To those who fear Him, Angels encamp around them.
To those who fear Him, He preserves from corruption.
To those who fear Him, His intimacy is enjoyed.
To those who fear Him, He restores and sets free.

Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth – by Ken L. Birks

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Beguiled by the enemy, truth in the streets disappears.
With seeds of deception sown, the church cries out in tears.
As truth disappears, darkness settles across the globe.
Casting his spells of deception, the world lies in his sway.
False teaching runs rampant, as the enemy has his say.

Casting off the spells of darkness, the Church rises in relief
Called to be the pillar and ground of all truth, she rises in belief.
Believing that all Scripture is inspired by God, she mends.
Called to rightly divide the word of truth, she makes amends.
As she repents, she returns to her foundation to rebuild.

With no other foundation to build upon, she rightly divides.
Immersing herself in the elementary principles, she presides.
Line upon line, here a little, there a little, she speaks with truth.
No longer caught in self-deception, she speaks truth in love.
With divine harmony of revelation in play, she comes alive.

Fully immersed in the unction of the Spirit, she teaches, reaffirmed.
With insight into riddles, and mysteries, deeper truths are discerned.
With her thinking process submitted to the word, she rightly divides.
As the word takes precedence over the Spirit, in truth, she delivers
Knowing teachers receive a stricter judgment, she builds the pillars.

With the pillars of truth in place, light begins to dispel the darkness.
With the Father's glory rising upon His people, truth increases.
Not placating for the sake of relevancy, truth is restored in the streets.
As truth restores, light penetrates those once caught in hopelessness.
Without blinders, multitudes see the light, now penetrating the darkness.

Scripture References: 2 Timothy 2:15, Isaiah 59:14, 60:2, 1 John 5:19, 2 Timothy 3:15, Isaiah 60:1, Romans 13:12, 1 Timothy 3:15, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, Hebrews 5:12-14, Isaiah 28:9-10, Ephesians 4:14-15, 1 Peter 1:20, 1 John 2:20, 27, 2 Corinthians 20:5, Romans 12:2, James 3:1.

Prophetic Purposes Fulfilled – By Ken L. Birks

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With prophetic purposes to fulfill, the Father moves to infuse.
Through the ages, Patriarchs, Prophets and Kings, He uses.
In those whose hearts are aflame with His desires, He pursues.
With not one promise failed, He continues in His zeal to perform.
With the night far spent, the time draws near with much to inform.

In His zeal, the Father rains on those whom He delights.
With His prophetic purposes in full view, they set their sights.
The mighty wind and rain come to fulfill all that was declared.
With tongues of fire, He makes them flames of fire, prepared.
With prophetic purposes to fulfill, His vessels, He ignites.

With passion ignited, His vessels stand ready to fulfill.
Armed and ready, they stand waiting for His command.
In battle array, they stand building according to His plan.
With pillars of truth in place, they stand secure in His will.
As the command comes suddenly, they go forth to fulfill.

As the trumpet sounds the alarm, revival fires ignite everywhere.
Saints everywhere rise in the stature of His fullness to declare.
He empowers as His voice thunders to those who have ears to hear.
With great exploits, He performs through His faithful instruments.
As His mighty army marches forward in perfect step, He implements.

In every nook and cranny, His presence and sovereignty are felt.
With the earth filled with His presence, multitudes are helped.
No one is without excuse as we stand before Him, in judgment.
For all who come to Him in repentance, He gives final opportunity.
In the end, all will witness signs and wonders with importunity.

The final trumpet sounds, as all that was prophesied comes to pass.
With the beast fully released, Satan comes in power to destroy in mass.
With the mystery of God finished, the trumpet continues to sound.
The earth is scorched as the fullness of God's wrath is released.
The Son of God sets up His throne as Satan is bound and leashed.

Scripture References: Acts 3:20-21, Matthew 5:18, Joel 2:28-29, Matthew 16:18, Psalm 53:2, Zechariah 10:1, Acts 2:1-4, Joel 2:11, 2:5, 1 Timothy 3:15, Joel 2:1, Ephesians 4:13, Daniel 11:32, Joel 2:8, Joel 2:11, Matthew 24:14, Revelation 16:8-9, Revelation 20:1-4.

Riding with Dylan - *By Ken L Birks*

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With Dylan streaming on the iPhone, I ride.
Mounting up with headphones, Dylan sings.
Heading towards the bike trail, I shift into gear.
Full speed ahead, on my bicycle, I pedal.
Dylan keeps me company, as I cruise along.

Dylan sings "Changing of the Guard," I notice changes.
New affordable apartments on the left, I take note.
The new parking garage, now finished, full of cars.
Men and machines building a new bridge for the bike trail, I see.
Passing the old fire department, I see the new one ahead.

Dylan sings about a "New Pony" as I approach the trailhead.
Entering the trailhead, I notice the homeless hanging out.
My thoughts turn to God's provision as I give Him thanks.
Saying a prayer for the homeless, I ride as Dylan sings on.
Enjoying the peace and serenity of the creek, I give praise.

With "No Time to Think," Dylan sings on as I ride without thought.
My mind shifts into neutral as I pass jogger after jogger.
I nod my head to them as they nod back, wondering who they are.
With the trail bridge ahead, I prepare for the sharp turns.
Sharp turns take me under the freeway above as Dylan plays on.

As Dylan sings about "Señor," I wonder who he's singing about.
My mind wanders back to a mission trip to Mexico in years past.
I remember how they prayed. They prayed to Señor.
Is this who Dylan is singing to, I wonder? I think so.
My prayer goes to Dylan to find the "True Love" he sings about.

Further down the trail, I pass mothers with strollers as Dylan sings.
Their children seem content to ride in the cool of the morning.
Enjoying the nice breeze, I keep riding as others walk by.
I notice the old guys on their bikes, trying to stay fit as they age.
I'm reminded, that's why I ride with Dylan serenading me.

I pass a herd of goats hungrily munching on the grass.
They're busy mowing the grass with teeth as they feed.
I give praise to the Lord above for pleasant thoughts filling my mind.
Dylan plays on as I enjoy the ride taking me along the creek-bed.
Feeling motivated I decide to go for the distance before heading back.

Heading home I pass a young child crying her heart out.
Her mother, several yards ahead busily talks with her friend, unaware.
Passing the mother, I yell, "Your child is back there crying."
Dylan sings, "Baby, Stop Crying" as I head for home.
Caught in the uniqueness of the moment, I offer up a prayer and a poem.

Homeward Bound – by Ken L. Birks

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Clothed in majesty, He comes to set up His throne.
With promises fulfilled, He prepares a place to be shown.
With eyes not seeing nor ears hearing, beauty awaits.
According to our desires, the Great Architect mandates.
Clothed with new celestial bodies, we reign in the unknown.

With the sting of death removed, we rejoice forevermore.
In His healing waters, without pain or sorrow, we adore.
Bearing the image of the heavenly, we're raised incorruptible.
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we're changed, indestructible.
In His presence, fullness of joy is given with pleasures, forevermore.

Reunited with those who went before us, we bask and savor.
With hearts filled with wonder, we explore and discover.
With beauty in all that's prepared, discovery surpasses imagination.
Walking on streets paved in pure gold, we revel in celebration.
With all revealed, we bask in our inheritance, fully discovered.

Marching forward, we look for the eternal city, as pilgrims.
Seeking those things above, we cast all our cares upon Him.
Leaving the world's temporary things behind, we press forward.
Looking for the city, whose builder is God, we're rewarded.
With the Invisible kingdom and its glory in sight, we're transported.

Oh, that we might discover the path leading to this eternal home.
With His sacrificial Lamb given, the way is shown to His throne.
Giving ourselves to the sacrificial Lamb, the path is discovered.
We discover, His Son, Jesus, the gateway to the path, uncovered.
We give thanks to our faithful Father, who reveals our way home.

Scripture references: Psalm 8:5, John 14:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Colossians 1:16, Psalm 37:4, 1 Corinthians 15:40-44, 55, Revelation 21:4, 1 Corinthians 15:52, Psalm 16:11, Ephesians 1:17-18, Revelation 21:21, 22:1-3, 21:22-25, 1 Peter 2:11, Colossians 3:1-2, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Hebrews 11:8-10, John 3:16, John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5.

In Sync with God's Purposes – Ken L. Birks

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Destined to be all that the Father has called us to be, we come.
Knowing that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we give praise.
Acquainted with all our ways, He draws us unto Himself.
Wired by God, we are designed to be in sync with His purposes.
Looking down from heaven above, He looks for those who understand.

Saved and called, we enter into His predestinated purposes.
Yielding to His kingdom desires, our vessels, He uses for His glory.
With vision and dreams now reality, we move in sync with Him.
As His divine nature takes root, our thoughts conform to His will.
With the mind of Christ, we go forward in the power of His Spirit.

Satan comes to trip us up, causing us to question our calling.
Giving into doubt and uncertainty, we short circuit God's wiring.
Amid turmoil and struggle, we try to rewire what's broken.
Caught up in our ill devised plans, we stumble in darkness.
Desperate to get back in sync, we repent and humble ourselves.

God in His mercy rewires the mess we've made of His handiwork.
Though our course is somewhat altered, He places us back on the path.
With full acceptance, we realize His thoughts toward us are precious.
With confidence in His love, we press toward the mark of the high calling.
In sync with His purposes, we die daily, embracing His cross.

Fully abandoned unto Him, His anointing is released abundantly.
His Spirit no longer quenched, He works His will and good pleasure.
As His sovereignty meets free will, we come together with Him, in sync.
Looking down from heaven above, He sees us as useful vessels.
Now prepared and re-wired, we go forth with a conquering spirit.

Scripture References: Psalm 139:13-17, 2 Timothy 1:9, Romans 8:29, Hebrews 12:9, Ezekiel 36:27, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Philippians 2:13, 1 Corinthians 15:31, Matthew 16:31.