

Biblical, Devotional Poetry

Treasures from Heaven

By Ken L. Birks

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Biblical Devotional Poetry

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Looking Out My Window – By Ken L. Birks

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Looking out my window I see the wonders of God in the skies.
I see the sunrise with the expectations of a new day as it begins to rise.
What is it that this day will bring that will wrap me in the arms of His love?
As the sun rises, my eyes are blinded by its brightness above.
In the eternal realm, my eyes rise to gaze upon His beauty, evident to all.
I await new revelation and insight from the awakening of a new day.

Looking out my window, I feel the warmth of the sun, so bright.
I see squirrels playing joyfully with no thought or care of fright.
I see the hand of God in the beauty of His created ones.
They run and play with no concern as the Father cares for them.
He cares for them as He does for the sparrows who fly so freely in flight.
I sense the faithfulness of a God who cares and delights in us.
Even more than the squirrels who play so joyfully, He delights.

Looking out my window I see sadness on the faces of those who pass by.
I see the homeless person who is wondering where he will sleep tonight.
As the sun begins to fade, it gives way as darkness and cold come with a bite.
I pray, He who is the provider of all, supplies what's needed as the sun fades away.
As He provides for the birds of the air and the squirrels who play so freely, so I pray.

Looking out my window I see young mothers with their children joyfully strolling by.
They rejoice in the miracles that have come forth as they sing a lullaby.
Casting their gaze upon their beauty, their hearts are filled with wonder.
While others slumber, they see God's faithfulness filling their cup with gratefulness.
They take note of the beauty and wonder of God that's seen by all who take notice.

Looking out my window, I see stray cats on my porch basking in the sunlight.
As they sleep contentedly, I notice they're well fed though they have no home.
I then realize the neighborhood is their home as they disappear into the night.
I give thanks to the Father who seems to care for the insignificance of a stray cat.
I'm aware of how much more valuable and significant I am in His sight.

Looking out my window, my heart is filled with gratitude, praise and amazement.
I see the Father's handiwork in all that He has made for our enjoyment.
He continually looks with care and concern over all that He has conceived.
Faith arises in my heart as His love washes over me with all that He has achieved.
Wrapped in the arms of His tender love and care, I enjoy the moment as I breathe.

Scripture references: Matthew 6:24-34, Psalm 17:8, Romans 1:20, Psalm 107:8-9, Job 11:7-12.

On the Horizon – *By Ken L. Birks*

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On the horizon comes flashing storm clouds, dark and grey.
The Father looks down from heaven above and sees land so dry.
The storm comes with vengeance to pour water on a dry and thirsty ground.
With His fist He gathers the clouds together to send the rain, now found.
The flashing clouds come as a tempest upon this long awaited day.

On the horizon God's people await with hearts filled with anticipation.
They see the dark storm clouds coming with awe and thunder.
The enemy gathers his forces with one mind to insult and wreak provocation.
Is this the beginning of the birth pangs that were foretold so long ago?
As darkness covers the earth, God's people begin to a rise and shine in wonder.

God's people have been dwelling on a dry and thirsty ground.
Is this not a time to repent so that the times of refreshing will be found?
Is this not a time to hew out new cisterns that will contain His precious anointing?
Is this not a time to arise and shine to prepare for His glory to fill the land?
Is this not a time to ask of the Lord for rain in the time of the latter anointing?

An army comes great and strong putting to naught the schemes of darkness.
The enemy waits to cast spells of hate and anger upon those who are following.
They who wait on the Lord renew their strength in preparation for what is coming.
As praise begins to arise upon those who belong, they respond in love.
The weapons of hate have no effect as darkness lifts, giving way to the light above.

The chosen ones link arms, marching together with one purpose, onward.
They have their own mountains to take as the anointing thrusts them forward.
With the noise of a mighty army they advance in step with one another.
With an ear to the Father's voice, they march on, having found their position.
God looks down with delight and breathes on them with fierceness and vision.

On the horizon the anointing within increases as the glory of God begins to settle.
The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, multitudes are fed without trouble
The rain they asked for comes with full force as they march with God giving voice.
The fullness spoken of in Scripture is evident to all as the anointing comes in full force.
Multitudes upon multitudes now give heed to the sound of their battle cry.

As David of old waited on God, having lost the lot, he was given instruction to recover all
God's people now go forth in battle array to recover everything the enemy stole
Those who cast spells with their hatred now stand defenseless, drained of color
God's army marches on as the earth quakes before them and the heavens tremble
As God's word is executed, the day of the Lord is at hand. Who will prevail?

The following Scriptures were the inspiration of this prophetic poem: Matthew 24:8-9, Isaiah 60:1-6, Jeremiah 2:13, Zechariah 10:1-2, Acts 3:19,, Isaiah 54:17, 1 Kings 18:44, Isaiah 40:28-31, Joel 2:1-11, Ephesians 4:13,16, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ezekiel 37:1-10, Joel 3:14, 1 Samuel 30:6-8.

The Goodness of God – *By Ken L. Birks*

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The goodness of God springs forth to all
Those who respond, experience newness from above
Hearts bound in guilt, shame and self-hatred now filled with love
With God's goodness comes new insight and revelation
From hearts wide open, come freedom from the terrors within

The goodness of a God brings refreshing to a starving soul
As repentance takes root, the dryness of the soul gets the boot
Like a mighty rushing wind the soul is cleansed with forgiveness
It gives way to streams of living water pouring out of an abundance
From the beauty of the newness within comes a heart of peace

Like a guardrail, the goodness of God comes with strong security.
A stronghold in the day of trouble, anxiety and tension.
A newfound stronghold of peace holds firm in the midst of disparity.
In the midst of the storms of life, waves of peace wash away all agitation.
As hope fills the heart, its anchor holds steady as the storm rages on.

The goodness of God brings healing to body, soul and spirit, now revealing
Where there was pain and hurtful wounds and scars, now healing
Where sickness and disease existed, now comes faith and healing for all
Where there was destruction, now comes redemption from the fall
Oh that men and women everywhere would give thanks for His goodness to all

<http://straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/goodness.htm>

This poem was inspired by the following Scriptures: Ephesians 1:17, Romans 2:9, Acts 3:19, Acts 2:2, John 14:27, Nahum 1:7, Hebrews 6:19, Psalm 103:1-5, Psalm 107:1-8.

Authority from on High – *By Ken L. Birks*

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With flashes of lightening, the Lord speaks from on high.
His authority is awesome, with mighty displays of power and might.
We stand in awe with all that He has created with the sound of His voice.
He is held in fear and awe to all those who ascribe to His glory, so bright.
How do we draw nigh to One with such authority and power from on high?

He who is above all is near to those who are humble and contrite of heart.
From the blood of His slain Lamb we now approach with boldness.
He welcomes us with open arms and invites us to dine with Him, in closeness.
He covers us with His robe of righteousness as we stand in His presence, set apart.
A sense of newness washes over us as we gain new footing with a new heart.

We bask in His Word, a lamp unto our path, showing us the way, so commanding.
Though His thoughts are higher than ours, we gain new understanding.
As His Word renews our minds, it washes over us as we sense His cleansing.
We discover His thoughts towards us are peaceable, full of hope and expectation.
With newfound boldness we approach Him and ask for anything with invitation.

Like flashes of lightening, new revelation and insight, our minds exude.
With His divine nature being imparted into our spirits, minds are renewed.
With His Word sharper than a two edged sword, we discern His voice, so stout.
A new authority begins to give way to the old that was filled with unbelief and doubt.
In moments of quietness, His gentle voice gives instruction for the new route.

We realize we have connected with the One who speaks with such authority.
We give thanks to the One who has counted us worthy to bear His Name in sincerity.
With our name now written in His great book, His name is now recorded in our spirit.
Where His name has been recorded, He now daily loads with blessings, happily.
We now belong whole heartedly to Him and have become a part of His great family.

With newfound authority, we journey forward with courage as we face the unknown.
Destiny and purpose fill our hearts as we move forward embracing His great throne.
The peace longed for fills our hearts with joy as we embrace His grace, now shown.
Our hearts are full as we ascribe honor to Him, giving praise and glory to His name.
We now walk in His authority that's been extended to all those who were drawn.

Scripture references: Psalm 29:4, Jeremiah 32:7, Ephesians 1:19-20, Psalm 34:18, Hebrews 4:14-16, Revelation 3:20, 1 Kings 19:12, James 3:17, Jeremiah 29:11-12, Matthew 7:7, Ephesians 1:17, Hebrews 4:12, 1 Peter 1:4, 1 Corinthians 2:16, Psalm 107:8-10, Matthew 28:19, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 17:8, Exodus 20:24b, Psalm 68:19, John 1:12, Luke 10:19-20, 2 Timothy 1:9, John 14:27, Psalm 29:1-2.

Grace that Leads – By Ken L. Birks

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Once lost and bound in oppression, we taste His grace, so readily.
Free from anxiety and depression, we sense His love, joyfully.
Washed and made clean by His blood, grace takes hold in all foretold.
No guilt nor shame to keep us down, set free to soar to heights unknown.

When trouble comes brewing, grace leads to peaceful solutions.
Free from uncertainty and doubt, grace leads to resolutions.
Sowing seeds of faith, we press on, unchained, in Him now sustained.
Hearts now filled with peace count it all joy as He leads to new domains.

When sin comes knocking, grace within teaches to deny all ungodliness.
No longer bound by disobedience, we yield to the power of His grace.
He gives way to escape with eyes now open to the path so bright.
With His grace so freely given, we flee from the old to soar in new flight.

No longer bound by carnal limitations, we yield to divine inspiration.
From within, grace is multiplied as our hearts are set in motion.
In all we are called to, there is nothing we can't do as grace exceeds.
With Christ, we can do all things. Nothing is too difficult as grace leads.

We give thanks to the One who gives His grace so freely.
Hearts overwhelmed by grace that covers, we rejoice as He hovers.
He has made us more than conquerors in all of our endeavors.
We soar so effortlessly as He leads us so triumphantly
Oh that we would give thanks to Him who loves us so completely.

Scripture references: Ephesians 2:6-8, 1 John 1:7, Romans 8:1, Isaiah 40:31, Isaiah 30:21, John 16:33, Philippians 4:6-7, James 1:2-4, Titus 2:11-12, 2 Peter 1:4, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 2 Romans 8:7, Corinthians 2:14, Psalm 107:15

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The Peace of God – *By Ken L Birks*

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From the wayward way and sin, we're lost within.
Guilt and condemnation engulf the soul in agony and pain.
From the heaviness that overwhelms, we stand in shame.
Looking for peace, we grope without hope as we defame.
Oh that a way would be provided from the torment, therein.

Behold, the Lamb of God comes to take away sin and shame.
With His blood shed, our souls are cleansed, no longer in flame.
His peace comes like a river, washing the torment away forever.
He births new life into our spirits, through atonement to whomever.
As freedom gives way to peace, sin and shame disappear forever.

Problems, troubles and trials come like a mighty tide pulling us under.
As we cry out from blunder, He takes us by the hand to deliver.
"Oh, you of little faith, why did you doubt and not believe?"
With just a touch, He relieves, as He reaches out in mercy.
The peace of God floods our souls as we are rescued in wonder

Flooded with uncertainty from the future so blurred, anxiety rises.
Financial security, food, clothing, and shelter tempt us with compromises.
Clinging to His Word, we learn to trust, giving way to Kingdom surprises.
As we lean into Him, the peace of God that surpasses understanding comes.
As we put Him first, His Word promises us all things added in sums.

We give thanks to Him above who provided the perfect sacrifice.
He is our faithful High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses.
We give thanks to Him who continually provides for all of our needs.
In moments of unbelief, He readily forgives and sets us free, so precise.
We give thanks to Him who continually fills us with His peace.

Scripture references: 2 Corinthians 1:3, 7:6, John 1:29, John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 5:7, Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22, John 20:22, Romans 8:1-2, Luke 21:26, Matthew 14:29-31, Philipians 4:6-7, 2 Peter 1:3, Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 4:14-16.

The Voice – *By Ken L. Birks*

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We come into this world naked and innocent as babes in hunger.
We see and perceive all that is around us with great wonder.
Perceptions of reality formed by others bring assumptions with confusion.
Caught in a web of meaningless existence, we cry out in desperation.
Lost in confusion we grope about in blindness hoping for a ray of light.
For the blindness that grips the soul, there's hope in the dark of the night.

In the midst of all that clutters, a still small voice speaks with difference.
Where did it come from? What was it that spoke with such significance?
Oh that it could be captured – that brief moment with such peace!
It spoke with such warmth and love in the midst of turmoil and unease.
The voice in the wind will surely come again as we wait with expectation.
It must be seized when the wind blows with such sweetness before cessation.

Coming as a beam of light, the voice points to a new path to explore.
It becomes stronger giving direction to the path forward, so near.
With eyes riveted, the light rests on something blocking the pathway ahead.
With eyes now focused, a cross stands in the path that must be followed.
The voice speaks with such clarity, explaining the meaning of the cross.
We realize, we must now embrace it fully before making further progress.

Having tasted of the sweetness that comes from obeying the voice, we trust.
The peace coming from obedience floods our souls as other voices are hushed.
How do we embrace something that represents pain, humiliation and suffering?
As we embrace it and carry it everywhere we go, His voice, we must now trust.
With confidence and assurance, unafraid of what's ahead, forward we thrust.

To our surprise, all burdens and the cares that weighed us down are lifted.
Our sins added to the weight, we realize, the One it represents has now assisted.
Weightless, it now seems, though the weight of our sin and shame are added.
He who gives voice, walks alongside bearing the brunt of the weight, acquitted.
He continues to whisper to us, "Follow Me and cast all of your cares upon Me."

No longer lost in confusion, we willingly embrace His cross daily, so freely.
Knowing this voice leads to daily adventures of faith and love, we breathe deeply.
The peace and joy that floods our souls is worth the cost of becoming His friend.
Committing to Him daily, our thoughts are His as He leads so completely.
His plans and purposes are now ours as our thoughts plan our ways to blend.
No longer lost in a web of meaningless existence, there is no need to pretend.
Giving praise and thanksgiving, we breathe in deeply, His presence, so sweetly.

You Were There – *By Ken L Birks*

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Like a dragnet I was caught in a web of false illusions.
You were there to stop me in my tracks, in spite of my delusions.
Crying out in mental anguish, you were there to dismantle.
Your patience and loving kindness have overwhelmed my soul.
You have taught me to trust in the One who is always there to untangle.

You are there as my thoughts turn to You in the quiet of the night.
As I trust in You, faith and confidence fill my heart with might.
Your guidance and faithfulness sustains me throughout the day.
In Your faithfulness, You are there when my thoughts tend to stray.
As Your eye is on the sparrow, You are there, even in my failures.

The enemy comes to steal and destroy what has been given.
You were there in the midst of the turmoil and anxiety he induced.
Even though he plundered, You provided from Your earthen treasures.
Surprised, I stand in awe and wonder of how you produced.
In your faithfulness I will continually trust in your measures.

I give thanks to the Father above who looks upon His children.
You are always there watching over your children with such tenderness.
I am blessed beyond measure because of your benevolence.
Because You're always there, I'm forever grateful for Your indulgence.
You will never leave me nor forsake me. You are always there.

Scripture references: Psalm 34:6, Psalm 9:10, Proverbs 3:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:9, Matthew 6:26, John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 4:7,, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 23:37, Psalm 91:4. Hebrews 13:5.

Caught in the Father's Pursuit of a Lost Soul – *By Ken L. Birks*

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In a moment of panic, I cried out in desperation to be free.
I discovered You in captivity as my life flashed before me.
Like a fish with a hook in its mouth, I was caught.
Not ready to submit, I fought the hook, trying to spit it out.
You didn't fight me, but let me run with it, so blind.
Not giving up on me, brought peace to my fragile mind.
Whenever the line jerked, I knew You were still there.

Not ready to be caught, I looked for adventure and excitement.
Why do I run, fighting Your hook, resisting being captured?
Freight Train hopping from place to place, I often wondered.
Like a fish with the hook in its mouth, you reeled me in periodically.
Only to let me go again, to sinful ways and stubbornness.
How long will Your patience last, I wondered, in my distress.

Your patience exhausted me, breaking me down, little by little.
The battle for my soul continued to rage on in non-committal.
My soul grew weary as I encountered a series of disillusionments.
What is it that was resisted – Your unfailing love or fear of surrender?
Lost in a spiritual maze of mixed up philosophies, I stood in wonder.
What was it that I discovered so long ago that drew me so near?

Sensing the day coming, in stubbornness, not giving in, I was denied.
Lost in a state of confusion, I desired, but didn't quite know how.
Blindsided, being caught in a hypnotic trance, I finally decided.
In a moment of intense struggle, worn out from the fight, I caved.
As the battle ended, I was wrapped in the arms of Your lovingkindness.

Your patience and kindness took every opportunity, waiting to intercept.
You outwitted my stubbornness and deception without force, drawing me.
You led me to a moment of awe-inspiring revelation as my spirit leapt.
It was You I was looking for all along. Why did I wait, so distraught?
Forever grateful for Your diligent pursuit of a lost soul, now caught.

(This poem expresses my personal testimony)

I have also written a book about my testimony titled "The Adventures of Space and Hobo."

<http://spaceandhobo.com>

Standing at the Crossroads – By Ken L. Birks

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Deep in our spirits, filled with unrest, we question.
What is it that brings such anxiety and apprehension?
The voice within says, “Be still and know.
Trust in Me and I will show you where to sow.
How many times have I revealed my part?
I will never leave you nor forsake you.
Be at peace as I test your heart.”

“Turbulence comes as one season parts and another starts
Be still and know as I reveal a new season filled with purpose.”
Standing at the crossroads, we discipline our souls to trust.
Be quiet soul and listen to the gentle whisperings of the Master
Waiting on Him who restores the soul, He comes with peace.
As the turbulence continues, anxiety and unrest now cease.

At the crossroads, we delight in His presence with contentment.
As He holds us in the warmth of His presence, our souls exults.
Who is this who speaks with such gentleness and consults?
It is He who says, “Come to Me.
You who are weary and burdened, I will give rest.”

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through a Christ Jesus.

You Alone – *By Ken L. Birks*

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In You alone I trust as I lean upon Your Word and Spirit.
Your word is a lamp unto my path as I look to You alone.
You are the One who gives direction to the weary one.
Day by day I wait upon You as I drink from Your Spirit.
Your Word washes over me and renews me daily as I hear it.

You alone breathe life into the weary soul, only to revive.
As all cares are cast upon You, my burdens, You relieve.
As I wait, Your divine ability flows through me as I believe.
You alone cause me to mount up on the wings of an eagle.
My spirit soars as I'm seated in heavenly places with You.

Your Spirit and Word fill my mind with Your thoughts, so fine.
With the mind of Christ, I go forward into all that is now mine.
You have given to me all things that pertain to life and godliness.
Your divine nature now belongs to me as I press onward.
In You alone, towards the upward call and prize, I press forward.

With Your precious promises, I have escaped to You alone.
The corruption of the world no longer has a hold on me as I soar.
In You alone, we will forever walk together. In Your love, I adore
I am now complete and made whole as Your love washes over Me.
Forever grateful, as I stand in your presence, righteous I will be.

Scripture references: Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 119:105, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 5:25, 1 Peter 5:7, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Isaiah 40:31. Ephesians 2:6, Philippians 3:14, Peter 1:3-4, Hebrews 10:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Clearing the Clutter – *By Ken L. Birks*

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With desire to move forward we often remain stuck in a mold.
What is it that prevents us from laying hold?
What is it from the past that clutters the path that must be removed?
Strongholds of envy, unforgiveness, shame, and more, clutter.
Standing in the way, they clutter, as we reach forward, unmoved.

Immobilized, we cry out for help, screaming for freedom and liberty.
In desperation, we look at the clutter and see it's damaging negativity.
A voice from within says, acknowledge and confess to another and grow.
The helper comes to show the way and point out the clutter that must go.
As thoughts are brought into alignment with His, newness will overflow.

With determination and resolve, thoughts are brought into captivity.
As new thoughts swirl around in the mind, we go forth with dignity.
Mighty weapons for tearing down strongholds are given from above.
The old strongholds break free as freedom and liberty come to release.
With the taste of freedom, faith arises for that which must be laid hold of.
Destiny and purpose are reachable as vision fills the mind with peace.

New fire ignited with the kindling from the old chaff causes increase.
As the past is left behind and forgotten, new vision brings peace.
It presses forward toward the goal for the prize of the upward call.
To this end we now strive according to His power working in us mightily.
No longer stuck in a mold, the clutter removed, we move forward heartily.
For it is God who works in us to will and do for His good pleasure.

Scripture references: Philippians 2:13, 3:12, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Psalm 34:6, James 5:16, 2 Corinthians 2:-11, 10:4, Ephesians 1:17-19, Matthew 3:11-12, Philippians 3:14, Ephesians 3:20, Colossians 1:29, Philippians 2:13.

Journey into the Invisible Realm – By Ken L Birks

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As darkness covers the land, spiritual eyes unlock the invisible sphere.
A kingdom realm now discovered exists without observation.
Into this realm, free from the works of darkness, we dwell, safe and secure.
With natural eyes only, we trip and stumble, falling into stagnation.
To the invisible, where darkness doesn't exist, we flee with His armor.

In this realm, invincibility is sensed, as hearts turn to that which is above.
A protective shield appears as the armor of light is given for security.
We trample over the power of the enemy with newfound freedom and authority.
Nothing can hurt us as we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, above.
The armor of light not only protects but reveals the paths ahead, thereof.

The Father's Son takes us by the hand and teaches us to see anew.
He gives the Holy Spirit to reveal all that's in the Father's heart, hitherto.
His Word becomes a lamp unto our paths, giving insight and proficiency.
With the eyes of our understanding unlocked, we walk with new confidence.
As we trust in Him, we no longer lean upon our own sufficiency.

With spiritual eyes now open, evidence of the unseen is clearly seen.
With faith in the newfound substance of a kingdom unseen, we reign.
When times of darkness and testing come, we cling to His Word in obedience.
We treasure His Word more than our necessary food in our persistence.
Our feet hold fast to His steps when He seems to disappear at times.

From faith to faith, we go, knowing we'll see a little further when we get there.
With mountains removed, knowing there is nothing to stop us, we press on,
Filled with vision and excitement for all that is ahead we continue in anticipation.
Even though faith is tested at times, we know we shall come forth as gold.
The faithfulness of the Father is with us. He shall never forsake us, we're told.

In this invisible realm, we now live, safe and secure in the Father's love.
All plans and purposes are now birthed from this perspective from above.
With vision so captivating, we journey towards the destiny that is now ours.
We look for that city, whose builder and maker is the Father above.
We know that when we arrive, it will be more magnificent than imagined.

Scripture references: Isaiah 60:1-2, 1 Corinthians 2:14,16, Luke 17:20, Ephesians 5:11, Romans 13:12, Psalm 91:1-5, Luke 10:19, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, Psalm 119:105, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Hebrews 11:1, Romans 5:17, Job 23:8-12, Romans 1:17, Matthew 17:20, Hebrews 13:5, 11:10, 1 Corinthians 2:9.

The Discovery of Knowing God – *By Ken L. Birks*

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You are intimately acquainted with all our ways, forevermore.
You know our thoughts, dreams, fears, sins, and more.
Where can we go? Nothing is hidden from You, yet You still love us.
Your thoughts towards us are more than can be numbered.
Our thoughts must be brought into your captivity, unencumbered.

Oh, that we would know You as You have known us, even in our sin.
Your greatness is beyond discovery. Where do we begin?
In Your Word and creation are hidden keys that reveal who You are.
Hidden treasures are discovered as we search for You with persistence.
Intimacy is discovered as we seek with all our hearts, without resistance.

As we seek, misconceptions of who You are disappear.
Your Holy Spirit teaches us as He reveals Your nature, so near.
As we meditate on Your beauty and majesty, we discover Your ascriptions.
In Your Word we meditate and search out Your divine distinctions.
With Your Word and Your Spirit we go forth in discovery of who You are.

Your generosity fills our hearts as we observe Your handiwork in creation.
Your beauty and magnificence, uncover Your creative zeal.
Myriads of stars, streams, mountains, waterfalls and more, You reveal.
Your beauty, and majesty are discovered by all who have detected.
In discovery, we know You as we open our eyes to all that You have created.

In Your omniscience, You have known our future and paths we take.
You go before us as a guiding light, knowing what's already at stake.
How can we but trust in You as we navigate through dangers and pitfalls.
Your thoughts are only of peace, to give a future filled with hope.
The more we discover, the more Your nature is revealed, which calls.

You alone are incomprehensible and inexhaustible in power and deeds.
In omnipotence, nothing is too difficult for You as Your power exceeds.
As You perform, You do the hard things, making our part attainable.
We do not underestimate Your power towards us in all things, assailable.
In discovery and knowing You, we remain linked to Your divine ability.

In all that you have created, Your eternal Godhead is clearly portrayed.
We are without excuse, as the sun, moon and stars are clearly displayed.
All energy is derived from the sun, as with the Father having life in Himself.
The moon reflects the glory of the sun, so Your Son reflects Your grandeur.
As Your Spirit is everywhere, so are the stars of heaven in all their splendor.
As we live and move in Your splendor, we experience Your intimacy within.

Scripture references: Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 40:5, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Psalm 145:3, Proverbs 25:2, 2:4-5, Psalm 119:2, John 14:26, Psalm 127:4, 19:1. Jeremiah 29:11, 32:17, Romans 1:20, Acts 17:28, Psalm 89:34.

The Suffering Messiah – *By Ken L. Birks*

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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 transgressions
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)"

The Path of the Righteous – By Ken L. Birks

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Drawn by the light shining upon my dark soul, I turn and wonder.
What is this light that reveals such darkness within now drawing?
Focused on the light shining so bright, I sense an intense tugging.
A path often ignored becomes more visible as it beckons me to consider.
Entering with much apprehension, the light calls me to surrender.

Stepping forward into the unknown, newfound peace floods my soul.
All apprehension and fear begin to dissipate as faith and courage unroll.
With newfound elation, I press forward in anticipation for what's coming.
As enlightenment surges, I taste the fruits of the path emerging
Newness discovered gives me a sense of invincibility, now rising.

With a new sense of freedom, I press on following the light, so awed.
I am led to an encounter with the light now revealed as the Son of God.
Before going further, He shows me a locked gate that must be unsealed.
He holds the key in His hand and says, in Him, I must now trust and yield.
I realize, before I can receive the key, I must confess Him as Lord.

He speaks with such affection and kindness, causing me to rejoice.
Sensing His love washing over me, I yield to the warmth of His voice.
As He hands me the key, I notice several are now attached.
“These are the keys to the kingdom for the journey,” He indicates.
Speaking of trials, treasures, gifts, and blessings, the keys, He illuminates.

From faith to faith I now walk with righteousness revealed in abundance.
Each step takes me further into an unknown path filled with mysteries, numerous
With my mind filled with revelation, mysteries become clearer, stabilizing my faith.
Destiny and purpose fill my thoughts with peace and security as I move, yielded.
No longer afraid or apprehensive, I delight in the path now revealed.

Darkness within that once ruled my soul, disappears with His light, now reigning.
The keys given, opened His treasures, giving insight to trials and hardship.
Spiritual gifts opened with His precious keys bring forth purpose, so burning.
Like the light of dawn, the path shines brighter and brighter with His glory revealed.
I now await the day that will be illuminated to all who discover the path, so shining.

Proverbs 4:18 The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. – www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/righteous-path

As Years Go By – *By Ken L. Birks*

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As the years go by, we count our blessings one by one.
Looking back, we stand in awe with all God has done.
With our lives in His hands, He brings forth what is concealed
Many run in circles, chasing rainbows, while others yield.
Lives yielded bear much fruit with an eternal weight of glory.

As years go by, many stand in wonder, with nothing achieved.
With regret in lives so wasted, nothing counted for or conceived.
Sadness fills the heart with wonderment of what could have emerged.
If only the voice within would've been heard, rather than submerged.
Living for today seemed so enticing with nothing gained or enlarged.

As years go by, the more we understand, our lives are but a vapor
Here today and gone tomorrow, so little time to make life matter.
In the eternal weight of glory we must continually yield for a life, so pure.
The Lord's will or our will, the ultimate decisions that determine our destiny
A life yielded to the Lord's will is without regret, treasures stored for eternity.

Help us, Lord, to take our eyes off self and turn to You in all that we do.
Help us to see the eternal weight of your glory as the years make us anew.
Help us to make our lives count for something so holy and pure.
Help us to come to the end of ourselves so that we find You in all that we endure.
Help us to be forever grateful in all that You accomplish in and through.

Scripture references: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, James 4:13-17, Matthew 6:18-21
www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/years

Snares of the Enemy – *By Ken L. Birks*

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Hearing the joyful sound coming forth from His Spirit, we delight.
In the light of His countenance, we walk in His might.
Lifted above the circumstances of life, we rejoice.
No longer controlled by worldly concerns, we give praise with voice.
With hearts set upon that which is His, we treasure His abundance.

With all that has been given, the enemy comes to steal.
Setting traps, he beguiles and snares as thoughts swirl.
With worthless things, he entices and distracts from what's valued.
He comes to destroy and drag us down into the pits of depression.
Falling deep into self-pity, we're often snared in transgression.

In desperation we cry out to be rescued while none seem to care.
As some turn against us, in misery we sink deeper into despair.
Overwhelmed by the snares set secretly, we cry out to be rescued
Trapped in the web of despondency, we're set free to be delivered.
He brings us out of this prison of bondage that we may yet praise Him.

With words fitly spoken, He rescues with words of encouragement.
Though the enemy may set his traps, we trust in God and His precepts.
Watching over our paths, He knows the ways that must be kept.
The testimonies of those who have gone before us are our heritage.
With countenances now lifted, our hearts rejoice in truths now mastered.

Inclining our hearts to walk according to His Word forever, we proclaim.
To the end we follow hard after Him who faithfully rescues from regret.
To Him who brought us out of bondage, we give thanksgiving and praise.
He will continually bless the ways we take, guiding us around traps set.
With the joyful sound coming from His Spirit, our countenance delights.

Scripture references: Psalm 89:15, John 10:10, 119:110-112, 140:5, 142:3-7
www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/snares-enemy

The Fragrance of the Lord – *By Ken L. Birks*

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In the Garden before sin, the fragrance of the Lord was everywhere.
Fruits, flowers, trees, and plants filled the air like sweet incense.
Mankind basked in the aroma of God's presence until sin's acquaintance.
With a distortion of senses gone wrong, sin was now found in every corner.
We now live in a world filled with the stench of sin's pervasion in fragrance.

What the world needs is the fragrance of the Lord to fill all in all.
Stench arises out of the ashes of corrupt minds that have learned to hate.
They're caught up in the ploys of Satan as he spews foulness overall.
Christians caught up in the devil's schemes spew out hostility to alienate.
With senses distorted, they no longer recognize true fragrance at all.

Where are those who intercede and cry out for the stench to be removed?
Where are the teachers and preachers who call for repentance, proved?
Where are the saints of God who are fed up with swimming in sewers?
Uncleanness fills the airwaves with the stench of Satan everywhere.
Isn't it time to call on the Lord to cleanse us from all that is impure?

It's up to us as God's people to diffuse His fragrance to fill all in all.
Putting on Christ making no provision for the flesh, His fragrance releases.
With minds renewed according to His Word, we take on His nature.
Like the smell of fresh fruit filling the senses, the fruit of the Spirit refreshes.
Love, peace, joy, long-suffering, self-control are a sweet smelling odor.

We are His hands and feet going forth filling the world with His fragrance.
As we walk as He walked, we are a sweet aroma purifying the airwaves
Leaving hate and politics, we crush the ploys of the enemy and his slaves.
As we purpose to fill all in all with His presence, His fragrance is detected.
Joining together with one purpose and mind, His fragrance is injected.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Other Scripture references: Ephesians 1:22-23, Romans 12:1-2, Acts 3:19, Galatians 5:22-25, Romans 13:14, 2 Corinthians 10:6, Ephesians 4:1-4.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/fragrance

Changing Our Perspective – By Ken L. Birks

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Weakened by the circumstances of life, we cry in desperation.
Broken and shattered without hope, we cry out in frustration.
Caught in a web of self-pity and misery, we complain, giving into strife.
Where does help come from, our spirits cry out in exasperation?
Where are Your precious promises of all things that pertain unto life?

In the stillness of the moment He whispers, “I respond to faith not pity.
Allow My Spirit and Word to change your perspective from moaning.”
We discover, it is the Word that gives life, not our commiserating.
As we acknowledge Him in all our ways, our paths will be revealed.
As His Spirit gives life, He gives wind to our sails as we yield.

As perspective begins to change, strength begins to pour through.
Vessels are filled with fresh wind as we give heed to His Spirit anew.
With obedience to His Word and Spirit comes transformation foretold.
Mounting up on the wings of an eagle, supernatural strength takes hold.
The weariness that once gripped the soul disappears into the night.

As we allow the wind of God to take us to places unknown, faith erupts
We now see beyond our circumstances with strength that interrupts.
Flowing towards us in the distance we see the blessings of the Father.
With abundance in sight and fervency rising within, we rush forward.
As we take pleasure in Him, we no longer cry out to be heard.

As His precious promises take hold, we give thanks to Him above.
As we trust in Him, we learn to be content in whatever state thereof.
His presence continually gives us the strength to move onward.
His grace is sufficient in all circumstances as we lean into Him.
What a difference a change in perspective makes when filled to the brim.

Scripture References: Psalm 34:6, 142:2, 2Peter 1:3, 1 Kings 19:12, Proverbs 3:5-6, John 6:63, 1 John 3:22, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Isaiah 40:29-31, Romans 1:17, Psalm 68:19, John 10:10, Philippians 3:12, Psalm 107:8, Philippians 4:11-12, 2 Corinthians 3:4-5.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/perspective-change

Truth and Error – Ken L. Birks

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No longer relevant in our world, the Church cries out in disbelief.
Pleasing the whims of our cultures, she stands weakened without voice.
No longer preaching sound doctrine, she stands in fear, intimidated.
Compromising truth for the sake of being relevant, the enemy laughs.
Caught in a web of deceit and mistrust, she cries out for relief.

With no truth in him, Satan comes with a vengeance to carry out his ploys
Filling the Church with his lies, those with itching ears give ear to his voice.
With truth no longer boldly proclaimed, Christians do what's right in their own eyes.
Satan laughs as he readily fills the vacuum the Church abdicates.
The enemy marches forward in deceit and lies as multitudes join his war cries.

Forsaking truth for lies, like the Pharisees of old, error comes into play.
With illiteracy of the Scriptures, the power of God no longer profits.
Falling into the deceit of Satan, Scriptures are wrested for whatever benefits.
Fear of controversy dilutes the truth, giving heed to a false way.
As the way is paved for the antichrist spirit, the Church is dumbfounded.

Is this not a time to arise with the belt of truth and the armor of light?
Where is the voice of the Bride calling for repentance and truth, so valiantly?
Where is the voice of the remnant church that will lead with ferocity and might?
Where are the apostles and prophets who speak unwavering truth, so candidly?
Where is the unity that will draw us together with one voice, collectively?

Is this not a time for the Church to be the pillar and ground of all truth?
As the Church takes her stand for truth, Satan has nowhere to stand.
His lies and deceit will be known to all, with no truth in him to be dispelled.
Multitudes who took up his war cry will now turn to the war cry of truth.
Doctrines of demons and the mouths of deceiving spirits will be quelled.

In the end, the gates of Hell will not prevail as Jesus builds His Church.
Let us purpose in our hearts to be a part of all that Jesus is building.
Let us join our hearts together in unity as we seek to quell the enemy's voice.
As the glory of the Lord rises upon us, let us bask in His love and power.
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns overall! Nothing is too difficult for Him.

Scripture References: Colossians 2:8, John 8:44, 2 Timothy 4:3, Judges 8:25, Matthew 22:29, 15:6, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 1 John 4:3, Ephesians 6:14, Romans 13:12, Ephesians 4:11-13, Joel 2:11, Matthew 16:18, Isaiah 60:1-2, Revelation 19:6, Jeremiah 32:27.

Kingdom Living – *By Ken L. Birks*

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In this world but not of it, we live and reign.
With thoughts shaped by His Word, we press on to gain.
With minds stayed on Him, He directs our ways as we trust.
We are enriched as we seek Him and His Kingdom first.
With the eyes of our understanding opened, His treasures disperse.

In obedience to His Word and Spirit, we live and move.
With obedient hearts, we dwell in His goodness and abundance.
With faith in His Word and promises, we lay hold to prove.
As we commit to His ways, our thoughts are established in substance.
Listening to the voice within, our minds plan and direct our moves.

Saved and called according to His purposes, we walk with tenacity.
In sync with His purposes, we are filled with vision and destiny.
His aspirations now ours, we labor with might as we knock.
The desires of our hearts realized, we serve enthusiastically.
As blessings come, we stand in awe with faith renewed ecstatically.

In times of difficulty, we persevere and trust in His faithfulness.
Our feet hold fast to His steps as we treasure His Word in all told.
With deeper understanding released, we come forth as gold.
In sufficiency of grace, we cling to Him in times of testing in all.
With joy and resolve we press forward for the prize of the upward call.

Governed by stewardship, we give to His causes, faithfully.
When a draw is needed, we willingly give cheerfully.
Sowing into His Kingdom, we reap now and eternally with promises.
Casting our bread upon the water, we reap as it unfolds
Daily loaded with benefits, His Kingdom authority takes hold.

Content whether abasing or abounding, we give thanks in all measures.
We give thanksgiving for the peace of God that guards our hearts and minds.
He who supplies to all has made us rich according to all His treasures.
We give praise to Him who has made us ambassadors of His Kingdom.
We give glory to Him who causes us to triumph in all adventures.

Scripture References: John 17:13-14, Romans 5:17, Romans 12:2, Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 1:17, 1John 3:22, Acts 17:28, Isaiah 1:19, Philippians 3:12-14, Proverbs 16:3, 9, 2 Timothy 1:9, Luke 11:9-10, Colossians 3:23-24, Psalm 37:4, Job 23: 8-12, Philippians 3:14, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:14-30, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Ecclesiastes 11:1, Psalm 68:19, Philippians 4:12, 7, 19, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 2:14.

The Mighty Wind – *By Ken L. Birks*

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You came as a mighty wind giving birth to Your Church.
As the wind continued to blow, others came, in search.
Your people went forth in the power of Your Spirit in battle array.
With revelation, You breathed Your Word into Scripture.
With Your Word now defined, all could taste, see, and hear.

The kingdom was birthed, giving hope to those lost in darkness.
Throughout history the wind blew at strategic times with fierceness.
With the mighty wind of Your Spirit, movements were birthed.
With each movement, truth came forth to further establish.
With the wind came freshness to those once lost in blindness.

As we wait in anticipation, the enemy comes with counterfeit winds.
He comes to confuse and deceive from that which is genuine.
As we test the wind with God's Word, we're free from all deception.
Though Satan comes as an angel of light, his works will be shown.
We are warned in Scripture not to take heed to his deceptive winds.

The mighty wind that gives breath to the dry bones will surely come.
God shall breathe upon His church as it stands like a mighty army.
With every joint and ligament connected it shall go forth in battle array.
His glory shall settle upon the Church as a mighty light to sway.
Being drawn to the light in the midst of darkness, many will come.

Multitudes will be saved as the mighty wind blows through the air.
With the fullness of His Spirit filling all in all, it spills out everywhere.
Many are touched with the overflow of His presence, standing in prayer.
As the Church is touched, the fullness of the stature of Christ results.
With the fullness of the Gentiles completed, blindness lifts as they exult.

Come, Lord Jesus, receive your bride as Heaven awaits in silence.
He shall come in the clouds of Heaven to receive all that wait for Him.
At the last trumpet, the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised.
We who are alive and remain will be caught up in the clouds with them.
Come, Lord Jesus, blow your mighty wind to make us ready to be amazed.

Scripture References: Acts 2:1-4, 39, 41, Acts 8:4, 2 Timothy 3:16, Luke 17:20, Matthew 4:16, 24:11-12, 2 Timothy 4:1, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:21, 1 John 4:1, Revelation 3:20, Ezekiel 37:1-10, Ephesians 4:16, Isaiah 60:1-5, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:13, Romans 11:25, Revelation 8:1, Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:17-17, Revelation 22:20.

Treasures From Above – By Ken L. Birks

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From heaven above we catch glimpses of great treasures.
From the Father's generosity, riches pour forth in good measures.
More valuable than gold, silver or rubies, He desires to bless.
Like looking for buried treasure, we uncover as we seek Him above.
From the Father's great storehouse, we are made rich in His love.

His Word is a treasure map of all that belongs to Him, so we've heard.
We discover His fortune in giving ourselves to the study of His Word.
We gain understanding through the revelation coming forth from Him.
As we treasure His commands, our ears are inclined to His wisdom.
With wisdom and understanding comes greater knowledge of Him.

In search of hidden gems, we discover the fear of God in our endeavors.
With the fear of God comes greater understanding of all His treasures.
Perceptions of their value increase as we dig deeper into who He is.
Gold, silver, rubies or sapphire are nothing compared to what's His.
To fear God and to depart from evil is a key to His locked treasures.

While looking for gems, our need for each other is discovered.
Our earthen vessels are filled with treasures as we find one another.
As we draw from one another in humility, gems are uncovered.
Hearts knitted together in His love attain to all riches in full assurance.
With the command to love others, treasures are unlocked in abundance.

His Spirit enlightens as we gaze into the Father's treasure chest.
He searches the heart of the Father revealing the riches of His glory.
He desires more than anything to reveal to us, all that the Father's has.
He gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation to know our inheritance.
As we give ourselves freely to the Holy Spirit, He is faithful to reveal.

All of what we receive now is just a foretaste of treasures declared.
Eye has not seen, nor ear heard what the Father has prepared.
Treasures from above will continually flow out of the Father's heart.
All wealth is attained with the hidden treasures in Christ, unending.
Throughout eternity the discovery of His treasures is never ending.

*Scripture references: 2 Corinthians 4:7, Proverbs 2:1-6, Colossians 2:2-3, Job 28:12-19,
Proverbs: 13-15, Ephesians 1:17-18, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.*

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/treasures

The Father's Way – *By Ken L. Birks*

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Father God, the creator of all that exists, provides a way.
Many roads are proclaimed as paths to the Father's way.
Any old road will get you there, as many try to say.
The way to the Father is a narrow way that few will find.
The other road is wide for the multitudes who are spiritual blind.

Those who come by the Father's way must be humble and contrite.
The proud are only known by the Father from a distance.
Blinded by their pride, they cannot be drawn, standing in resistance.
The Father's heart is to draw all unto Jesus, the only way in sight.
There is no other Name whereby anyone can be saved aright.

As mediator between God and man, came Jesus, man and God
Coming as God in the flesh, a ransom for our sin, He gave His life.
Without sin, He became sin, as we became righteous by His blood.
Going to the cross with His shed blood, a way to the Father was cleared.
To make atonement for sin, Jesus, the perfect Lamb was slaughtered.

As the life of the flesh is in the blood, the atonement had to be blood.
As Scripture says, "There is no remission without blood shed."
For the perfect sacrifice by blood, the Father's way was paved.
Unless the blood sacrifice is received and believed, all will be misled.
For the way to be paved, the Father gave His Son for all to be saved.

To all who come, His way is made available through His Son.
Jesus, the only door leads to eternal life in Heaven for everyone.
All who come to Jesus, must follow Him by embracing His cross.
He becomes the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.
Set free, we're forever cleansed from all guilt and condemnation.

Scripture References: Matthew 7:13-14, Psalm 138:6, 34:18, John 6:45, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 1:1, 14, 1 Timothy 2:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22, John 3:16, John 14:6, John 16:24, Hebrews 5:9, Romans 8:1-2.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/fathers-way

Sensory Overload – By Ken L. Birks

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In a world, with senses overloaded in every feasible way, we relate.
As we experience sensory overload, Satan seeks to captivate.
With media, and other things, he opposes and exalts himself above God.
Master of his domain, daily through all means, he saturates.
Through this maze of propensities, opinions, and maxims, we walk.

In a world lying under Satan's sway, we are easily led astray.
In a world gone wrong, how do we stay the narrow way?
With sensory overload, how do we resist the squeeze of the world?
With ears tuned to the Holy Spirit and God's Holy Word, we trust.
With our guides, the Word and Spirit, we go forward without disgust.

As the kingdom of God takes hold, we come under Kingdom influence.
Under the sway of the Lord Jesus, the world loses its dominance.
Yielded to God's ways, our eyes now focus above with fervency and zeal.
With hearts set on things above, sensory overload loses its appeal.
The bondage of the world gives way to newfound freedom and liberty.

With vision and purpose we're filled with kingdom perception.
No longer captivated by Satan, weight lifted, without weariness, we run.
Free to mount up on the wings of an eagle, we soar to new heights.
Passion ignited, we thrust forth with zeal and fervency to new sights.
With senses renewed, fresh winds blow as we walk in newness.

As our two guides work together in harmony, we yield to their authority.
Never leading us astray, they lead, as we're content to trust in their ability.
Taken deeper into our journey we're shown the wonders of the kingdom.
With dunamis power, we stand in awe and wonder with power revealed.
Standing in wonder with all God is doing, our hearts yield in submission.

Scripture References: 1 John 5:19, Colossians 2:8, Matthew 7:13-14, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 119:105, 133, John 16:12-13, Luke 17:20, 1 Corinthians 4:20, Colossians 3:1-2, John 11:12, Luke 10:19, 2 Timothy 1:9, Isaiah 40:31, 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, Acts 1:8, Hebrews 12:9

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/sensory-overload

Shifting Paradigms – *By Ken L. Birks*

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From glory to glory we come into the presence of the Lord
New thought patterns are brought into the captivity of His Word.
Leaving more of self behind as paradigms shift, we transform.
Old thought patterns give way to new liberties in the Spirit.
With faith we anticipate and believe for what's next, without limit.

With new ways and habits established, fruit begins to appear.
Former customs and practices based on false premises, disappear.
With each paradigm shift comes greater anointing to press forward.
With anointing, strongholds of the past are destroyed without agitation.
New strongholds of righteousness appear reinforcing the foundation.

With each paradigm shift we are taken further into destiny.
From glory to glory, gifting and talents come forth with clarity.
Going forth soberly, ministry is birthed with the measure given.
With gifts differing in proportion to faith, vision and purpose release.
Faithfully ministering in God's ability, His glory and presence increase.

As new paradigms take hold, pieces of the puzzle come together.
The picture is clearer with distinction of each piece's importance.
Value is seen in one another as each piece finds its place.
Esteeming other pieces according to their value, glory is released.
The body of Christ begins to emerge as the Spirit breathes life.

With the ministry of the Spirit now glorious, righteousness exceeds.
As we see ourselves transformed into His image, He leads.
As paradigms shift, we behold the glory of the Lord in a mirror.
When handling others as belonging to Christ, His presence is there.
From glory to glory, transformation of His body becomes clearer.

Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 3:18, 10:5, Hebrews 11:1,6, Romans 13:14, 2 Peter 1:5-8, Isaiah 10:27-28, 2 Timothy 1:9, Romans 12:3, 6, 1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Corinthians 12:20-24, Philippians 2:3, 2 Corinthians 5:16-17.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/shifting-paradigms

The Shifting Shadows of Time *By Ken L. Birks*

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Living in a world with many turbulences and disorders, we navigate.
With shifting shadows of time, our cultures are often in unrest and havoc.
As unbelief, violence, wickedness and corruption rage on, we're tested.
Holding fast to our confession, we stand in shifting sands, invested.
Without wavering, we press on to solid ground, keeping us protected.

With sure foundations in testing, lives built on the Rock remain secure.
Standing in unbelief and disobedience, lives built on shadows won't endure.
The foolish build on the shifting shadows of time only to be led astray.
Caught in the collective reasoning of time, they stand without hope.
In the end, the shifting shadows give way to the fullness of Satan's way.

Morals give way to the shifting shadows of time, deceiving countless.
As hearts grow cold, deception takes over, leading them to denounce.
Drunk in their desires, they march on, foolishly to their own destruction.
Marching to what's seemingly right in their own eyes, they're led astray.
Leaving paths of trouble for the righteous ones, they march on.

A torrent of unbelief at hand, they come as brutal despisers of good.
With the shifting shadows of time, righteousness is considered evil.
While evil is considered as good, they demonstrate their wanton desires.
Many depart from the faith as blasphemers and slanderers have their way.
As deceiving spirits and doctrines of devils are released, many are prey.

Enduring sound doctrine, as shadows shift, we're secure in Him.
Being watchful in all things, we don't give heed to doctrines of demons.
Being diligent by rightly dividing the truth, we stand in His righteousness.
Shunning profanity and vain babbling, we stand as ungodliness increases.
In righteousness, we depart from all iniquity, standing on a solid foundation.

Knowing that Jesus is preparing an eternal home, gives hope to stand.
With hope as an anchor for the soul, we're at peace with shifting sand.
When the sands give way to a world falling apart we have an anchor.
As the storm rages on, our hope in the eternal is steadfast and sure.
As we hold fast to our confession of hope, He who is faithful will deliver.

Scripture References: Hebrews 10:23, Matthew 7:24-27, Ephesians 2:12, Matthew 24:12, Proverbs 14:12, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:3, Isaiah 5:20, Ephesians 2:1-3, 2 Timothy 2:15-16, 19, 3:2, 1 Timothy 4:1, John 14:1-4, Hebrews 6:18-19.

Come and Drink – Ken L. Birks

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Come and drink from rivers of living water, splashing everywhere.
As others drink and are refreshed, many stand by, afraid to join in.
They call out, “Come and drink; discover a new life filled with wonder.
Out of the wells of salvation come blessings beyond belief,” they say.
“Allow splashes to touch your pain,” they plead without fanfare.

As splashes of living water touch them, their flesh begins to tingle.
As tingles of joy wash over them, fear begins to vanish for want of more.
As they step closer to those splashing around in joy, their hearts twinkle.
Joining those who have succumbed to the living water, fear dissipates.
While asked to drink deeply from the same well, the Father vindicates.

As they drink from the wells of salvation, living water begins to flow.
They’ve now been touched in a way, never thought possible.
With minds renewed, old thoughts and ways cease to grow.
As peace floods their souls, they’re overfilled with joy unspeakable.
Newness now flows freely from the purity of the new well, well primed.

Living water continues to flow as they keep going to the well to drink.
They’re now splashing others just as they were once splashed.
With the same cry they once heard, they cry, “Come and drink!”
Joy floods their souls as they enjoy seeing others touched with service.
They all go forth splashing everywhere with hearts filled with purpose.

Scripture references: Isaiah 55:1-2, John 7:37, Isaiah 12:3-6, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 1:3-10.

www.straitarrow.net/devotional-poetry/come-drink

Come Holy Spirit – *By Ken L. Birks*

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The Holy Spirit of God, free to all, comes with might and power.
The promise is given to all who are afar off, as many as are called.
As the disciples long ago, He comes with tongues of fire in this hour.
Out of our inner beings flow rivers of living water, to be enthralled.
The Father delights in giving the Holy Spirit to all who are called.

Come Holy Spirit as we seek, ask and knock for your presence.
Asking in faith, believing in Your promise, we come with expectation.
As we seek with whole hearts, fill our vessels with Your excellence.
Pour forth from our inner most beings a new language with conviction.
As living water comes forth, hearts are filled with prophetic anticipation.

Come Holy Spirit, burn the chaff that holds us back from purity.
Let the fire of the Holy Spirit come with conviction that possesses.
Leaving sin behind, our mortal bodies are quickened to walk in morality.
Do not allow sin to reign as we allow Your Spirit to have full access.
Show us hurtful ways that hold back from all that we acquiesce.

Come Holy Spirit, giving guidance as we walk in Your ways.
Lead us in paths of righteousness that lead to Your desires.
Allow the Spirit to lead us in conformity to Your image as we gaze.
As we follow, lead us away from the enemy's tempting fires.
Greater are You in us than anything the enemy throws our way.

Come Holy Spirit, teach us in the ways of the Father, so fine.
In all that has been given, reveal all that's in His heart of hearts.
Your anointing teaches us all things pertaining to life as we dine.
Your teaching drops as dew as we yield to what the Spirit imparts.
Teach us to number our days as we are given to Your purposes.

Come Holy Spirit, release Your gifts to encourage and strengthen.
Release healing and miracles to come forth to heal all as Jesus did.
Let the prophetic realms come forth to reveal the Father's intention.
Release the gifts of tongues to speak mysteries in the Spirit, amid.
Bring forth discerning of spirits to reveal the enemy's pretension.

We give thanks for Your Spirit who works in us the works of Jesus.
You are the One we give glory to for all that's been given and done.

Scripture References: Acts 1:8, 2:39, 2:3-4, John 7:37-39, Luke 11:9-13, Mathew 3:11-12, Romans 6:12, John 16:13, 2 2:20'Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 4:4, 2:20, 27, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 2

Peter 2:2-4, Revelation 3:20, Deuteronomy 32:2, Psalm 90:12, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Matthew 8:16-17, 1 Corinthians 14:2-3.

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Faith Erupts – By Ken L. Birks

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Sometimes, when coming to You, it's in a fog of unbelief.
Without condemnation, You're always there to give relief.
As trust is put in You, faith washes over our spirits, unstopped
We're reminded of Your greatness as thoughts are focused.
As Your love washes over our beleaguered souls, faith erupts.

When the circumstances of life pull down, unbelief corrupts.
Looking downward, we're blinded to all that You've promised.
Like the mountains in the distance, Your promises interrupt.
Focusing on them, eyes are drawn from the mole hills of unbelief.
As we lift our eyes to all that You've promised, faith erupts.

When situations conflict with the God's Word, unbelief settles in.
Confusion comes with misunderstanding of all that is perceived.
Thoughts brought into alignment with the Word, birth peace within.
In humility, we admit perceptions wrong as His Word is true, indeed.
As trust in the purity of the Word is placed, faith once again erupts.

At times, no matter where we turn, there's no sense of His presence.
While unbelief tempts, darkness grips the soul as visibility ceases.
Faith says, "Keep walking, holding the steps of His way, laying hold."
As the light at the end of the tunnel shines, we come forth as gold.
Having treasured His Words more than necessary food, faith erupts.

Caught up with vision and purpose, our eyes are opened wide.
Without vision, we cast off restraint as unbelief corrupts the heart.
Seeing and hearing in the spirit, we walk by faith, side by side.
Faith leads us to unknown conquests as we cease to lose heart.
As we speak and communicate all that we perceive, faith erupts.

Scripture References: Proverbs 3:5-6, Hebrews 11:6, Psalm 145:2-3, Colossians 3:1, 2 Peter 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, 10:5, Psalm 12:6, 30:5, 119:140, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Job 23:8-12, Proverbs 29:18, 2 Corinthians 4:13, Philemon 1:6.

A Voice Cries in the Wind – Stop and Listen

By Ken L. Birks

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A voice cries out in the wind – something's not right.
Right and wrong no longer distinguishable, creates spite.
With everyone right in their own eyes, frustration exceeds.
Hate and violence fill the land as sadness supersedes.
As hate destroys and defames, love cries out in the night.

A voice cries out in the wind – stop and listen.
Caught in the madness of the moment, fear grips.
Frustration gives way to madness, creating friction.
No one hears the voice in the wind as madness strips.
A voice cries, listen to gentle whispers that eclipse.

A voice cries out in the wind – love one another.
When hate and violence fill the land, no one gains.
Cease from madness, for the sake and love of others.
We all come from different paradigms of reasoning.
Stop and listen to the wind rather than the noisy clanging.

A voice cries out in the wind – respect and tolerate.
Allow love to rule by treating others as you wish to be treated.
Respect and tolerate opposing ideas that debate.
Trying to force others to change their paradigms is futile.
Stop and listen to the heart in the midst of all that is brutal.

Let peace come forth to stop the unrest.
Let love come forth to stop the hate.
Let sanity come forth to stop the madness.
Let wisdom come forth with respect that tolerates.
Let joy come forth to fill the heart with gladness.

Scripture References: Isaiah 5:20, Judges 17:6, 1 Kings 19:11-13, 2 Timothy 1:7, John 13:34, 2 Timothy 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 13:1, Luke 6:31, Matthew 7:12.

The Wonders of His Grace – by Ken L. Birks

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Caught in an avalanche of sin and shame, the heart cries out.
Unable to focus, it wanders around in darkness full of doubt.
Is there any way out of the misery it faces through the tears.
Unable to cope with lost hope, the heart cries for deliverance.
In the bleakest of moments, the cry heard, a ray of light appears.

As a bright morning star, the way out is discovered, now revealed.
A gentle breeze blows, now revealing the wonders of His grace.
Sin and shame disappear, leaving behind His fragrance, unsealed.
What is this that has such a profound effect upon the weary soul?
Is this not the Son of God who comes revealing the wonders of grace?

With all condemnation and guilt released the soul cries out in relief.
What is this unmerited favor that saves the weary from the avalanche?
No longer smothered, breathing comes easily as anxiety departs in belief.
Touched by the wonders of His grace, peace floods the inner being.
With a sense of newness, comes a sense of levity, now freeing.

With just a touch, the mind is renewed, emerging with new identity.
New revelation fills the heart and mind with purpose and destiny.
As His divine nature is imparted, the senses are enlightened and refined.
With the eyes of understanding now open, spiritual treasures fill the mind.
Extreme gratitude comes forth as the wonders of His grace fill the heart.

As steps are taken into the wonders of His grace, faith resolves.
Freed from sin, divine abilities are experienced from faith choices.
No longer blinded by the works of the enemy, fear dissolves.
As grace abounds in abundance for all good works, the heart rejoices.
As seed is supplied, the wonders of His grace are multiplied.

From desperation to jubilation the heart of man now rejoices.
What was it that brought the heart so far from the avalanche?
Now being led in triumph over the issues of life, grace leads.
Touched by the wonders of His grace, all glory belongs to Him.
No longer beaten down by sin and shame, grace exceeds.

Scripture References: Psalm 34:6, Revelation 22:16, 2 Peter 1:19, Job 38:7, Romans 8:1-2, Ephesians 2:6-8, Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:6-8, 14, 2 Timothy 1:9, 2 Peter 1:2-4, Ephesians 1:17-19, 1 John 4:18, 2 Corinthians 9:8-10, 2:14.

Lost in Thought – by Ken L. Birks

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Lost in thought, I turn to You, oh Lord for reflection.
In You, the mind is filled with thoughts, to be explored.
You are the One who turns thoughts into direction.
As ways are committed to You, thoughts are founded.
Destiny is defined as thoughts delight in Your affection.

Lost in thought, I delight myself in You, oh Lord.
As I delight in You, the desires of my heart are met.
As Your desires become mine, I make right choices
Your desires now lead the way with a new mindset.
In agreement with You, destiny fulfills; my heart rejoices.

Lost in thought, I trust in You, oh Lord for furtherance.
As I trust, I feed on Your faithfulness, no longer stalled.
Feeding on Your faithfulness, faith arises in accordance.
As faith arises, I go forth into my destiny, now called.
Vision and purpose now fill my thoughts in congruence.

Lost in thought, I continue to commit my ways, to You, oh Lord.
As ways are committed to You, they will surely come to fruition
As Your righteousness shines through me, others are inspired.
They are led in paths of righteousness with purpose and vision.
As I am faithful to turn to You, lost in thought, many are stirred.

Scripture References: Proverbs 16:3,9, Psalm 37:3-6.

Wings of the Wind and Flames of Fire – By Ken L. Birks

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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 expectation 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.

The Bride of Christ – *By Ken L. Birks*

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Clothed in the beauty and splendor of her Lord, she arrives.
She leaves behind her, the fragrance of the One she loves.
Crowned with twelve stars like a royal diadem, she shines brightly.
Espoused as a chaste virgin to the One she loves, she waits nightly.
The angels above rejoice as she as she awaits her chariot.

In faithfulness, she takes hold of Him, who takes away her shame.
So that she can stand in His righteousness, she takes on His name.
By the spirit of judgement and burning, she is purged and now waiting.
With all of her filth washed away, she's made excellent and appealing.
Without spot, blemish or wrinkle, in holiness she awaits her bridegroom.

She toils day and night as a virtuous woman making herself prepared.
She stands firmly on her foundation radiating His presence, declared.
As the moon reflects the sun's glory, she radiates her Father's grandeur.
Multitudes upon multitudes await this great day as others mock or ignore.
As the great wedding day approaches, the Spirit and the bride say, come.

Impregnated by the Holy Spirit, she awaits the birth of her male child.
She gathers herself together as the great decree is about to be unveiled.
In hopes of being hidden in the time of the Masters wrath, she waits.
Representing the wise virgins, she waits with her lamps filled with oil.
As her Master measures her inner temple, He finds her measure full.

As she gives birth to her male child, the enemy tries to snatch him.
Before the enemy can snatch him, he's caught up to heaven above.
Now angry, Satan makes war with this beautiful bride as his prey.
She's quickly rescued as a tide of violence tries to sweep her away.
Her chariot arrives, suddenly, in the form of two wings of a great eagle.

She's taken to her bridal chambers, a place prepared especially for her.
Allured into a unique place in wilderness, she awaits her bridegroom.
The Father's fury comes as it's unleashed on the inhabitants of the earth.
Safely hidden in a place of refuge, she rests in her shelter from the storm.
She wonders, "What will happen to her little sister, the foolish virgins?"

She's caught up to her Bridegroom with the Father's fury now ended.
She's received and known as He is with her marriage now consummated.
Her groom, riding on a white horse, gathers His saints to encounter.
From the four winds they gather for the great battle, now prepared.
With the brightness of His coming, those left on earth are scorched.

With earth purged of evil, the banquet is prepared for all those caught up.
Saints from every generation along with the Patriarchs come to sup.
A thousand years of peace, they build, plant, and rule the nations.
Satan is loosed for a short season to deceive again as the great pretender.
The new earth and heavens come as the bride appears in glorious splendor.

Scriptural references: Isaiah 62:3-5, 2 Corinthians 2:14-15, Revelation 12:1, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Revelation 12:6,14; **2nd Verse:** Isaiah 4:1, 2-4, Ephesians 5:27; **3rd Verse:** Proverbs 31:10-31, Revelation 12:1, Joel 3:14, Revelation 22:17; **4th Verse:** Revelation 12:1, Zephaniah 2:1-4, Matthew 25:1-13, Revelation 11:1-2, Ephesians 4:12-13; **5th Verse:** Revelation 12:3-5, 6, 13-15; **6th Verse:** Revelation 12:6, Isaiah 26:17, 20-21, Hosea 2:14-16, Revelation 15:1 – 16:21, Isaiah 4:5-6, Song of Solomon 8:8, Matthew 25:10-13, Revelation 13:7, 20:4; **7th Verse:** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Matthew 24:29-1, Revelation 16:15, 1 John 3:2, Matthew 24:31, Revelation 19:11-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10, Zechariah 14:3-4,12; **8th Verse:** Revelation 19:9, 20:5-6, 7-10, 21:1-5.

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Standing Firm When You've Lost Your Way – By Ken L. Birks

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In significance, “The righteous are bold as a lion,” You say!
Why do I, rather, find myself in a place of weakness and prey?
Crying out in desperation, feeling trapped in hopelessness, I stray.
Where is the life and victory, promised, looking at tomorrow?
My feet slip into a bottomless pit, while drowning in sorrow.

How do I stand firmly in righteousness as I misstep and trip?
With eyes fastened to the hopelessness that surrounds me, I slip.
With the love and freedom, that’s promised, I’ve lost the grip.
In disparity, all I see is pain, turmoil, hate, and wrath.
Did I take a wrong turn somewhere and miss the path?

I must go back and retrace my steps and find the path, missed.
In Your Word, I must look again to see what was dismissed.
What was it, not taken heed to that was ignored and resisted?
What was it, not applied that allowed me to slip into despair?
Surely I will find it, when I look with diligence and seek it in prayer.

There it is; worthless things, selfish gain, envy and covetousness.
Turning my heart towards His Word in all things, my soul refreshes.
As I turn my heart away from worthless things, I stand firmly to attain.
I must not envy the wicked in their prosperity, seeking selfish gain.
Turning my heart from things below to above, the seed is firmly sown.

Dwelling in faithfulness and delighting in Him, my feet are firmly planted.
Committing and trusting my ways to Him, brings to pass desires, granted.
Taking heed, my righteousness shines to others as a beacon of light.
An abundance of peace fills my heart as I stand in Him, firmly planted aright.
Where did I go wrong? It’s so clearly stated! Blinded by self-will, I lost sight.

Scripture references: Proverbs 28:1, 1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 2:14, Romans 8:37;
2nd Stanza: Jeremiah 46:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Galatians 5:1, Psalm
73:1-4, Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:18, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:1, James 1:25, 2 Peter 2:19; **3rd
Stanza:** Psalm 119:25-28, Hebrews 2:1, Psalm 9:10, 14:2, 27:4, 34:10; **4th Stanza:** Psalm
119:37, 1 John 2:15-17, Colossians 3:1-2, Matthew 13:22; **5th Stanza:** Psalm 37:3-6, John 14:27,
Job 20:22, Romans 2:8.

Destiny in Mind – by Ken L. Birks

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Lost in a maze of unbelief and pity, we cry out for relief.
Through a fog of unbelief, we often lose the way.
Where do we turn, when the soul is gripped with blindness?
Is there any hope for those who grope about in the darkness?
Looking for a ray of light to be shown the way, we pray.

Off in the distance, a small ray of light appears on the horizon.
Trying to access a crack in the hidden areas of the heart, we ponder.
To seal or open it wider for the light to shine through, we consider.
Do we unlock the area that has remained closed before we collapse?
Do we allow disillusion of the past to be sealed before time elapses?

Curiosity wins out, as we dare to open the cracks in our hearts.
The light bursts through filled with hope and vision for a new start.
Revelation fills our minds as we see what's ahead with new light shed.
Peace and joy flood our souls as vision for tomorrow is renewed.
With hearts filled with promise, we commit to the road ahead.

As we commit our ways to Him above, destiny and purpose converge.
No longer blind, in faith, we reach forward for that which is ahead.
Forgetting the failures and disappointments of the past, forward we tread.
From faith to faith, we travel as He continues to reveal the way ahead.
Delighting in Him, filled with confidence, destiny and vision emerge.