

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

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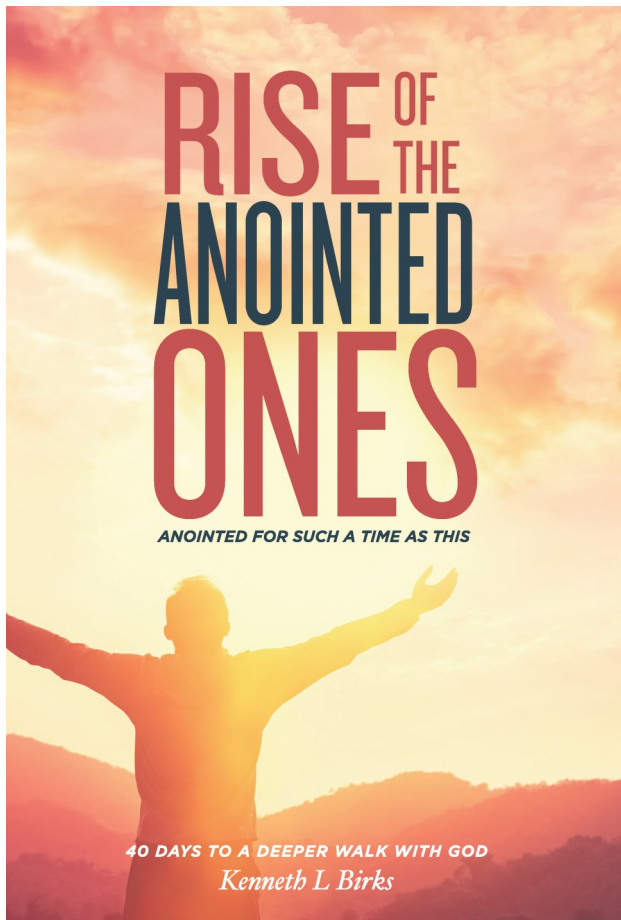
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Featured Item

Rise of the Anointed Ones



Good Will Toward All

When the host of angels announced to the shepherds the Birth of Christ, their message was: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" One of the purposes of the Messiah's coming to earth was to announce His Good will toward us and that we, in turn would have good-will towards all those who encompass our lives.

One of the Father's greatest desires for His people is for us to dwell in unity with one another. As the Scripture says, "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." It will produce an anointing that overflows into the world, causing multitudes to come to salvation in Jesus Christ. For this reason, we are to pursue goodwill with all peoples.

Hebrews 12:14-15 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.

The political and social climates in today's world make it difficult to follow the appeal the writer of the above Scripture gives us. However, we must remain peaceable under all circumstances, especially with our Christian brothers and sisters. As followers of Christ, we cannot afford to get ensnared in the root of bitterness that is sweeping over the landscapes of our world. Let us keep in mind that all Scripture is inspired by God,

Goodwill Toward All (Continued)

including the afore mention passage It is part of our instruction in righteousness. We are to have goodwill to even those who oppose us in thought and deed. The Christmas season is a great time to remind ourselves of this important aspect of our instruction in righteousness.

We must be prudent or guarded when it comes to the influence our present climate of the world can have upon us. With the advent of social media, it has become increasingly easier to get caught up in ungodly chatter that can be mean and cruel to the extent of becoming bitter towards one another. The last thing we would want to do is to allow bitterness to take over to the extent that we end up backslidden to the degree we become defiled and no longer believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, this is a possibility if we do not obey our instructions in righteousness and not pursue peace with all people amid a crooked and perverse generation that is becoming increasingly filled with hatred, violence, and bitterness.

Therefore, we must make every effort to walk worthy of our calling with all lowliness, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. God has given us much instruction in His word on pursuing peace in all our relationships, especially with those who exhibit hostility. It starts with loving one another in the same manner God loves us. He gave His only begotten Son, who was crucified by a cruel world towards Him. As Jesus hung on the cross, His words were, *“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”* Many in today’s world are bound up in the deceitful practices of the enemy of our faith, Satan. They have been lured into the climate or the collective reasoning of our time. Those who have the loudest voices have little understanding of their deceit.

Our attitude should be the same as Jesus’ when He said, *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they’re doing.”* We are to love our enemies just as Jesus did. Jesus also said we must be harmless as doves and wise serpents. We must allow the wisdom of God to filter the words that come out of our mouths.

Pursuing peace with those in opposition to us requires a reasonable degree of humility. With lowliness, we are to bear with one another in love. Through our humility and soft answers, their wrath is disarmed, allowing them to understand the gospel clearly. When we are more concerned about winning others to the Lord through our godly examples, we are less concerned about winning arguments. Paul gives us some good advice on doing this in his second letter to His son in the faith, Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 *But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient ²⁵In humility correcting those who are in opposition if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.*

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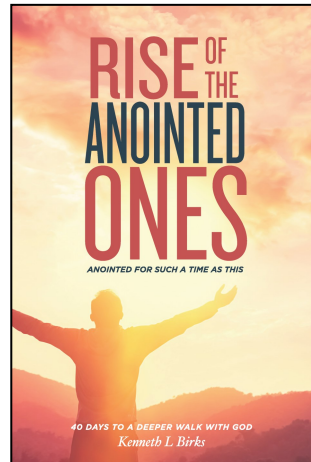


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About Ken’s Book Booksbyken.com



The devotionals in this book are designed to enhance your relationship with the Lord in all aspects. What separates this book from other devotionals is that each one ends with a biblically inspired poem that encapsulates the essence of the devotional.

We are encouraged in God’s word to embrace the divine nature of God.

With this in mind, many of the devotionals were developed to inspire you to be all that you can as the mind of Christ is imparted to you.

Dr. Jay Zinn, Author/Pastor writes: “There are few authors who can take theology and turn it into a devotional series of divine, inspiring nuggets and poetry. Ken Birks is such an author who penetrates your heart and soul to want to know God better. I highly recommend his 40 Day Devotional book — “Treasures from Above.”

Doug Hartline writes: Devotionals should be able to bring scriptural insight to us. It is Scripture that penetrates our souls with God’s wisdom and daily guidance. Ken’s work herein ensures that God’s Word takes center stage and holds the most important place within it so that it remains both timeless and relevant. Let Ken’s ability to paint with words reveal the treasures of God’s Word in colors you may never have perceived before.”



Mary's Realized Hope

In this message, we discover the birth of Christ and how it was a realization of hope for Mary, the mother of Jesus. It gave her the faith she needed to raise this child for God. This message *also shows us how we can walk* in the same realization of Hope that Mary did.

**Click Here to Download
to the Message in PDF**

About Ken Birks

Ken Birks is an ordained Pastor/Teacher in the Body of Christ. He functions as an elder and one of the teaching pastors at The Rock of Roseville in California. He also serves as a wedding and funeral officiant in the Sacramento region. Prior to this, Ken was the Lead Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, church in Roseville for twelve years. Ken has been married to his wife, Lydia for 45 years. They have two adult children and consider them their highest calling, along with the many teens and children whom they've been foster parents to over the past 40 years plus.








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**Harmless as Doves
by Ken Birks**

Caught in cultures of hate and violence, we ponder.
Facing slanderers, despisers, and haters, we wonder.
Working out salvation in the world, not of it, we yield.
Pursuing peace with the self-absorbed, we consider.
Loving as Christ or ensnared by culture, we explore.

Harmless as Doves, with wisdom, we gage.
Wise as serpents, unthreatening, we engage.
More regard for the lost than argument, we give ear.
In Christ's love, giving of ourselves in humility, we die.
Making every effort, refusing to quarrel, we vie.

Knowing Satan's entrapments, we forgive behaviors.
In love and insight, we speak in the presence of haters.
Knowing the Spirit's power to transform, we correct.
Correcting those in opposition, we speak with courage.
Pursuing peace with all we speak softly to encourage.

Website Features

Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries

[Top Ten Bible Studies](#)

The Ministry and Role of the Holy Spirit

This lesson describes and identifies the role of the Holy Spirit in the world, His relationship with the Father and Son, and how He functions in our lives.

Our Great Salvation

The Bible refers to our salvation as a Great Salvation, something the Old Testament prophets and righteous men, women, and even angels desired to look into, but could not. In this lesson, the goal is to look into this great salvation and why it is so great.

Water Baptism

Water baptism is a vital part of the Christian experience as we will see in this study. In fact, it is a very necessary part of the spiritual foundation that is being built in our lives. It is much more than a Christian ritual. Like everything else in the Christian life, we must apply the application of faith in order to experience what God has purposed for the Christian in water baptism.

The Healing Covenant

The purpose of this message is to show that healing is a part of God's divine nature that is being poured into the hearts of His people. It is also a part of the great covenants that God has established with His people throughout the ages.

Unraveling the Mystery of the Godhead

In the Bible, God is shown to be three distinct personalities: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The study of the Godhead is one of the major doctrines that orthodox Christianity teaches. It is a doctrine that separates Christianity from cults and so called Christian cults....

Predestination & Foreknowledge

The purpose of this lesson is to come to an understanding of what the Bible has to say concerning Predestination, Election and the Foreknowledge of God. We shall see what the Bible really says concerning this important study.

**[Click Here Now
to View all Ten Bible Studies](#)**

[Top Ten Sermon Outlines](#)

Dealing with Strongholds

This message deals with how you can pull down the strongholds that Satan has built in your lives. This message deals with how to cast off the works of darkness and to walk in the armor of light, while not giving place to the devil.

The Balance of Grace and Holiness

This message deals with God's grace in relationship to our holiness and sanctification. It examines the idea that God in His grace sees us as perfectly holy in Christ. He then sends His Holy Spirit to create a new heart within us as His Spirit helps to transform us into the likeness of His Son. We then come to understand that the work of Christ was finished at the cross, while the work of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing experience.

Striving for Moral Excellence

This message deals with our commitment to moral excellence. There is a great need for the church to exhibit a sense of moral excellence to the world in this critical hour in which we live — an era that condones and promotes sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, abortion and filthy coarse language.

Developing Faith Muscles

This message deals with the importance of developing faith muscles through our everyday circumstances. Faith is the essence of the Christian walk and unless we learn how to apply it in our daily lives we will not grow in it as God desires.

Healing for the Wounded Spirit

This message deals with identifying and getting healed from your emotional wounds. Are you tired of being chained to your past—emotional wounds, broken relationships, addictions and other areas of your life that keep you in bondage from being the successful person you would really like to be? If so, there is hope for you. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted and the oppressed. His Spirit is with us today carrying out this important purpose in our lives.

**[Click Here now
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