

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

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www.straitarrow.net

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The Journey (*Discovering the Invisible Path*)
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Featured Item

The Journey by Ken Birks



Beware of Cultural Deception

With the vast majority of humankind blinded by the lies of the devil, our world has become bound in deceit, which has given birth to the cultural destruction that comes with it. As Christians, we must be aware of the cultural deception surrounding us, as the Psalmist warns us lest we become blinded by fool's wisdom.

***Psalm 36:1-4** I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: there is no fear of God before their eyes. ² In their own eyes, they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin. ³ The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good. ⁴ Even on their beds, they plot evil; they commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong.*

The Psalmist's message from God expresses the mass deception taking place in the cultures of the world today. In every arena of our societies, we experience what the Psalmist has to say in areas such as the entertainment industry, education system, government—both parties, economy, arts, media, religion, and family. Fool's wisdom is ravaging our world.

Cultural Deception and destruction have crept into the inner sanctuary of the Lord's house as well. Jesus intended His Church to be the pillar and ground of all truth. The Church is to be a place for the wisdom of God to flow out of rather than the wisdom of fools. Unfortunately, since truth has been replaced by the knowledge of fools, truth has fallen in the streets with the cultures throughout our world lying in ruin and blinded by the devil's lies. Considering this, Paul warns Timothy about the importance of how he should conduct himself as a preacher and teacher of God's word.

***1 Timothy 3:15** But if I am delayed, I write to you so that you may know how you are to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

Beware of Cultural Deception (Continued)

As seen in the previous passage of Scripture, Paul urged his son in the faith, Timothy, the importance of conducting himself with absolute integrity towards the truth of God's word. Paul recognized the importance of maintaining absolute integrity when preaching God's word. He understood the responsibility given to the Church.

The Church is to be the pillar and ground of truth so that God can distill His truth throughout the world's cultures rather than fool's wisdom. When the Church compromises and waters the truth down to make it more palatable, it opens the doors for fool's wisdom to creep in.

When God's ambassadors do not boldly proclaim His unadulterated truth, justice turns back while righteousness stands afar off, resulting in God's people finding themselves prey. Unfortunately, this is the predicament many Christians find themselves when Satan has his way in today's world. — *Isaiah 59:14-15*

During this season of darkness, it is time for His anointed ones to arise by allowing our lights to shine brightly in the manner the prophet Isaiah speaks prophetically of in the passage below.

Isaiah 60:1-2 *Arise Shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

As we speak and act according to the wisdom flowing from above, it opens the doors for God's hidden knowledge to be glorified in our lives for all to see, hear, and sense. Because we have received that which comes from the Holy Spirit, He teaches us to compare spiritual things with spiritual. Making this comparison enables us not to get caught up in the foolish chatter of the world. He has given us the mind of Christ to keep us from the dangers of cultural deception as His Spirit searches the heart and wisdom of the Father in all things, even the deep things of God.

We must allow God's word to be our filter in all we do and speak. In doing so, we will stand firm against the lies and schemes of the enemy. Know that challenging times are upon us. This season is not a time to walk in self-deception and the wisdom of this age, but rather a time to become fools for Christ that we may become wise in God and His ways.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 *But know this that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. ⁵ Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"*

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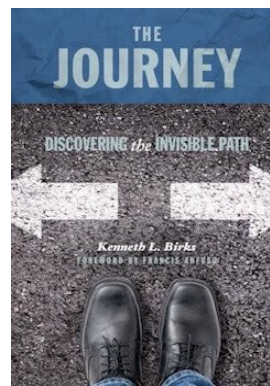
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Details on Ken's Book

www.booksbyken.com/



We live in a world that was created in the beauty and wonder of what was originally intended to give us glimpses into the eternal treasures God has stored up for all those who have come to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Just as each of us has been born of a natural birth that brought us into this world, there is a spiritual birth God desires for us, a birth that is designed to bring us into

the unseen beauty and wonder of the eternal realm where God resides --- the kingdom of heaven.

KLOVE personality, Pastor Francis Anfuso writes in the Foreword, "I believe "The Journey" by Ken Birks is your GPS for the Bible. The problem is solved. The riddle is deciphered. Like a trusted guide, Ken makes complex concepts simple and masterfully unpacks the Bible's greatest mysteries. He provides a sure foundation upon which to build a lifetime of insight."



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 functions as a wedding officiant in the Sacramento region. Prior to this, Ken was the Lead Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a Spirit-filled, 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 to whom they've been foster parents to over the past 40 years or so.

Podcast Sermon

Keeping in Step with God



[Click Here or on the Graphic Above to Hear the Message](#)

The Message starts at 1:03:50

Many today have no idea how to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and all that he wants to do in their lives. They are too conditioned to being led by the outward circumstances of their lives rather than the still small voice from within.

However, God wants to order our steps so that we will be able to keep step with all that He desires to do in our lives.

Psalm 37:23-24 *The steps of a goodman are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.*

Why is it important for us to allow God to order our steps?

- **God created us with a purpose in mind** — 2 Timothy 1:9 *We were saved and called with a purpose*
- **Every aspect of our lives has been written in His book.**
- **He knows us from beginning to end.**
- **He has already seen our future and knows how to order our steps accordingly.**

Psalm 139:3-4 *You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue, but be-*

Devotional Poem

By Ken Birks

Transformed into His Likeness

In cries for mercy, seeking truth we yearn,
Wise in our eyes, yet through His light we turn.
Perfect and righteous, He calls us to His way,
His word converting souls, in Him we stay.

Humbled before His throne, His ways we learn,
His thoughts so high, to Him our spirits turn.
A kingdom not observed, He does reveal,
With wisdom, light, and truth, His love we feel.

His word igniting hearts, passion found,
His Spirit breathing, new life abounds.
Word and Spirit changing us, we adjust.
Purified over time, in Him we trust.

Enlightened by His truth, our spirits glow,
Impurities released, His ways we know.
Hope in His calling, tested by His might,
Christ's mind imparted, we become light.

Thoughts transformed, wisdom lights the way,
His divine nature imparted, His fruit we display.
Transformed into His likeness, we arise,
From glory to His glory, we realize.

His greatness rooted deep, in joy we sing,
Understanding wide, His love does bring.
Seeing Him as He is, in faith we soar,
and strengthened, we doubt no more.

About Straight Arrow Ministries

Straight Arrow Ministries is a ministry of sowing seeds of faith. It is a Bible Teaching Ministry, both online and offline. It is dedicated to balanced Biblical teaching

The online ministry reaches over 2000 unique visitors a week from all over the world. It offers Books by Ken Birks, Bible Studies, Seminars, Sermon Outlines and other resources to help build and strengthen the body of Christ. Most materials are free of charge so that the body of Christ can be equipped for the work of the ministry. Click below for Ken's Website.

**Sowing Seeds of Faith
Online Ministry**

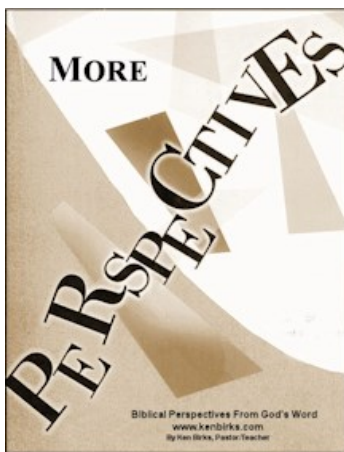
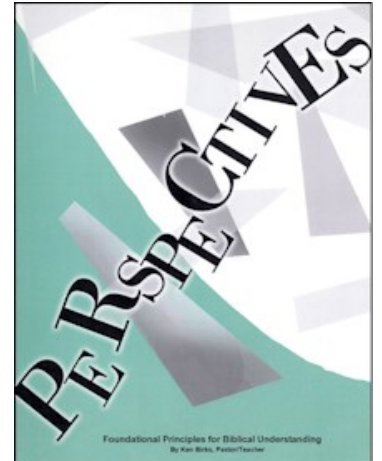
Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries

Perspectives Course & Class

The Perspectives Course includes foundations for biblical understanding that were developed for providing believers lessons that are designed to give solid Biblical foundations in the elementary truths of God's Word. They are designed with three things in mind—building a doctrinal foundation, developing godly character and discover and finding their destiny and purpose God has for them.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

[Please Click Here for Complete Info and How to Order](#)



More Perspectives Course and Class

This course features lessons that are focused on three major areas of our Christian growth—doctrine, character and destiny. It includes more advanced subjects for the believer that are designed to give a deeper Biblical understanding of God's Word that will strengthen the Christian foundation.

This workbook is available in both Teacher and Student Manuals. If you are buying for Bible Study only, just order the Teacher's Manual.

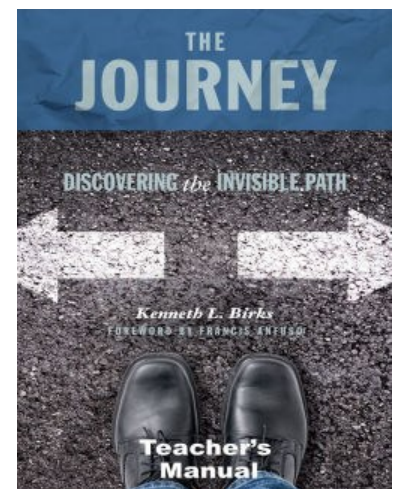
[Please Click Here for Complete Info and How to Order](#)

The Journey Workbooks & Class

This class is designed to go along with the book that Ken has written on "The Journey." It includes ten lessons.

The goal of the class is to give you a glimpse into the path God has purposed for your life and to help you seize your destiny and purpose. In doing so, you will be able to live the role created for you. Whether you're just starting out on your journey, anywhere in the middle, or have become de-toured and lost your way, this practical seminar will help shine the light on the invisible path that not only leads to God's goodness and experiencing His kingdom within, but also to the greatest adventure of your life!

[Please Click here for complete info and How to Order](#)



Please Note: All of these workbooks come in both Teacher's and Student's Manuals. You can order both Teacher and Student manuals if you want to incorporate them into the life of your church or ministry or you can order the Teacher's Manual only for personal Bible study.