

# Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

## Straight Arrow Ministries

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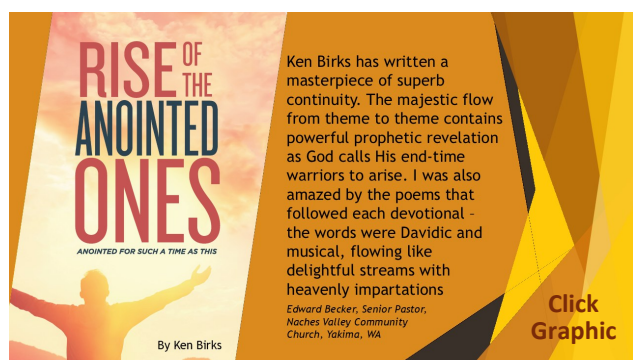


### Featured Product

#### Rise of the Anointed Ones

#### Reviews from Ken's Book

"If there was ever a set of devotionals fit for these times, this is it. In his devotional titled *"Anointed for Such a Time,"* Ken Birks discusses Mordecai reminding Queen Esther, *"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"* Ken's devotional is perfectly fitted for a time such as this. As you read the 40 devotionals, you will find a beautiful blend of timeless truths fitly applied to today's culture and challenges. Ken's insights will challenge you to grow in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature. We live in an age of shallowness and deceitful scheming. I have known Ken for over 20 years in which I have come to realize that he has a deep and rich understanding of the Lord's relationship, knowledge of Scripture, and awareness of how truth relates to our present culture. When I went through my own 'Dark Night of the Soul.'



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### Featured Message

#### The Day of The Lord is Coming

Is God about to do something extraordinary? This is a question to ponder if we want to be a part of the prophetic fulfillment of the times before the Second Coming of Christ—The Day of the Lord. As the prophet Joel declares, we are to sound the alarm and warn all that the Day of the Lord is at hand. Now is the time to make ourselves ready as His instruments of righteousness.

*Joel 2:1-2 Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound the alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming, for it is at hand.*

In Peter's sermon following the healing of the lame man at Solomon's Porch in the book of Acts, he makes the point that Jesus will not return until the restoration of all things has occurred and everything spoken by the prophets is fulfilled. The above passage is a prophetic statement concerning the times we are entering. We are at a point in time when our worldly climate demands that we prepare ourselves. The trumpet has begun to sound the alarm, warning the inhabitants of our world to get prepared for what God is about to do. We are entering a season of urgency, wherein we must first ensure that we clothe ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ by putting on our wedding garments. Will we be among those who have prepared ourselves for the great wedding day, or will we be caught unaware suddenly when the day comes upon us? Preparing ourselves for how to be used in this season is an important question for all of us to consider as we await our Lord's Second Coming.

*Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and her wife has made herself ready.*

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### *The Day of the Lord Continued*

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> and there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*

The term **“works”** means active operation, productive, powerful, dynamic, efficient, fervent, and mighty in showing forth. The word **“manifestation”** means to make visible, clear, and known. **With these two definitions in mind, we can see that it is the Father’s desire for us to be vigorous and mighty in showing forth and making His power visible through the gifts of the Spirit.**

An end-time anointing is coming before the return of Jesus Christ that will be far greater than anything that has occurred throughout the earth’s history. God is now commissioning us to fulfill the words of Jesus when He said, *“You will do greater works than I.”* This anointing will come suddenly like a mighty rushing wind, as it did with the early disciples in the Book of Acts. So now is the time, as Christ’s bride, to make ourselves ready. As we hear the trumpet sounding the alarm, we must take the time to fill our vessels with the oil of the Holy Spirit as we purpose to go go His anointing.



As chaste virgins espoused to Christ, let us not be like the foolish virgins who took no oil with them while they waited for their bridegroom. Instead, let us be like the wise virgins whose lamps were filled and ready to move in step with God’s plans and purposes.

**The prophet Daniel said,**

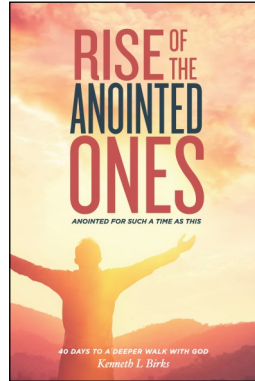
*“The people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”* Therefore, let us heed the words of Paul, the apostle.

Romans 14:11-12 *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent; the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

As the alarm reverberates through our spirits, may we go into our harvest fields, sounding the alarm. With the rise of the anointed ones, God will usher multitudes into His kingdom before the day of the Lord. May we not be caught sleeping.

**The time to get ready is at hand.** By preparing to get the extra supply of oil for all that God has prepared for this time in the history of the earth, we will be ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ. **May we sound the alarm for all to hear.**

### *Reviews Continued from Page 1*



Ken was instrumental in bringing me back to a place of wholeness. As I read these devotionals, I found much of the wisdom Ken shared with me on that journey.

Each devotional stands on its own, but together, they will propel you into a rewarding journey of experiencing God’s presence in tumultuous times. I

would encourage you to open your Bible and read each devotional with an expectant heart. May you **Get Ready** in these momentous days and experience what it means to rise with the anointed ones.”

**Robert Guild**, Associate Pastor, Mosaic Christian Church, Rocklin, CA.

Most true followers of Christ would agree that we are witnessing a time when self-serving Christianity is reaping the whirlwind of disunity, confusion, and fruitlessness. It is past time to listen to the voice of reason merely. Instead, we must respond with renewed minds, hearts, and actions.

Ken’s book is like a voice in the wilderness calling God’s beloved away from all that distracts to Him who is jealous for His bride. The reader who hears and responds will bring joy to the heart of God and encouragement to others who have put their hand to the plow.”

**David Fredrickson**, Senior Pastor (Retired), Evangel Christian Fellowship, Sacramento, CA.

“Each daily devotional I read, along with the poem and extraordinary prayer, became my favorite in the whole book – until I read the next one. As I finished the manuscript, I realized that each devotional revealed timely end-time strategies to enlighten, equip, and inspire believers. Each devotional also challenges the reader to grow, mature, and pursue the highest level of Christian conduct.

**Edward Becker**, Senior Pastor, Naches Valley Community Church, Yakima, WA; Vice President, Antioch World Missions.”

“There are few authors who can take theology and turn it into a devotional series of divine, inspiring nuggets and poetry. Ken Birks is an author who penetrates your heart and soul to know God better.”

**Dr. Jay Zinn**, Founder of The Discipleship Group, a national and international program for developing and equipping disciples to become disciple-makers.

[Click Here for More Info on Ken’s Book](#)



### Podcast Sermon Feature

#### Keeping Step With God

This Podcast Message is about “Keeping in Step with God,” and all that He desires to do in our lives. God is in the process of preparing His Church for all that must take place before the coming of the Lord. Now is the time to make sure we are in step with Him as He completes the work He began in each one of us.

**Psalms 37:23-24** The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.

This message deals with how to keep in step with God as He orders our steps. If we are to rise as His anointed ones, we must know how to keep in step with His working in our lives.

### 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.



### Rise of the Anointed Ones

#### by Ken Birks

Storm clouds brewing over the land, the earth trembles.  
Unrighteousness manifesting throughout, evil dissembles.  
Troubles coming from every direction, darkness covers.  
Anxiety, depression, and fear invading, multitudes suffer.  
Engulfed in madness of the moment, numbness buffers.

Given to days of darkness, sinful behavior normalizes.  
Blinded by self-absorbed ones; denial demonizes.  
Filled with hate and violence, the antichrist spirit abuses.  
Unrest multiplying rapidly, cries are heard across the globe.  
From heaven above, the Father sees, hears, and probes.

Hearts of compassionate understanding, He draws near.  
Enlightened in His ways; He draws into His sphere.  
Those with ears to hear, He anoints abundantly.  
With double portions, His anointing spreads triumphantly.  
In a spirit of unity, anointed ones rise to engage mightily.

For such a time as this, anointed ones soar on eagle wings.  
Not growing weary, they embrace His glory, overcoming.  
In the power of His might, His gifts release aplenty.  
The earth filling with His presence, He's known globally.  
Throughout the land, anointed ones are known universally.

The restoration of all at hand, they march vigorously.  
They come great and strong, like whom have never been.  
The Lord giving voice, they recover all, marching perfectly.  
The earth quaking mightily, the unrighteous writhe in pain.  
The heavens trembling, strong is He who executes perfectly

### Website Features

Ken's website located at [kenbirks.com](http://kenbirks.com) has lots of features worth exploring. His website receives around 2000 visitors a week featuring Bible Studies, Sermon Outlines, Devotionals, Podcasts, Devotional Poetry, Books, and more.

**For more of Ken's Biblical Devotional Poetry, please click the link below:**

**[Ken's Poetry Site](#)**



### Bible Study — How to Enter Into the Sanctification Process with the Lord



When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we step into His righteousness, which covers all of our sin and shame. The Father only sees us through the righteousness of Jesus. He sees us as being perfected forever, as the writer of the book of Hebrews expresses so adequately. However, the sanctification process is an ongoing experience as we work out our salvation in fear of God.

*Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

When we are saved, the work of Christ is finished in our lives, but the work of the Holy Spirit is just beginning. He has much work to do as He leads us inexorably towards total conformity to the image of Christ.

One of the essential keys to our growth and maturity in the Lord is to understand the sanctifying process. It is through the sanctifying operation of the Lord that our ears are trained to discern the voice of the Lord as He guides and directs our lives to be all that we can be in Christ. As we yield to the Holy Spirit in this process, He conforms us to the image of Christ because this is the direction of the predestinated purposes of God.

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

The key to staying in this process is to keep our eyes rested on the Lord. As we behold His image in our thoughts, we are gradually changed into His image from glory to glory. By meditating on all of His wonderful attributes, the mind of Christ begins to take shape in us as old ways of thinking dissipate. As we give ourselves to the study of His Word, His ways and thoughts are embedded in our hearts and spirits, transforming and renewing our minds with a new perspective on life. All things become new as the old gives way to the newness that is now changing us.

When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, the fire of God comes to refine us, burning the sinful chaff in our lives as we are changed from glory to glory. This is what helps us to be free from the fire of judgment. The prophet Isaiah also mentions this in a portion of Scripture, when he speaks of the spirit of burning that causes the Branch of the Lord to be beautiful and glorious -- *Matthew 3:11 & Isaiah 4:3-4.*

One of the most significant areas of uncleanness that we must deal with is the lusts of the flesh. These are areas that continually war against who we are in Christ. It is as we purpose to walk in the Spirit that we won't succumb to them while the fire of God continually burns the chaff of ungodly desires from us.

*Galatians 5:16-18 I say Then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things you wish. <sup>18</sup> But If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Our part in the sanctification process is to yield to the Holy Spirit, who is the One who convicts us of sin. As we respond to His gentle promptings in these areas, He gives us the victory we need, which causes us to triumph over the lusts that war against the soul. As we put on the characteristics of the new man, the Holy Spirit is leading us into; the old nature begins to disappear. We find that our desires are now toward all that God is doing in us rather than being dictated by the lusts of the flesh and the cultures of the world.

Conversion and sanctification are designed to necessitate a definite break with the corruption caused by sin. When we come to know God through Christ, we not only escape the corruption of sin but also are renewed and restored to the divine image. The provision of the divine nature through repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ, along with the power of the Holy Spirit, belongs to the divine sovereignty of the Lord. However, the application and fulfillment of these are the human responsibility of every believer. The Bible says, "We are to put on the new man."

**This is just a sample of the Complete Bible Study on this Subject**

**[Click Here to View the Complete 14 Page Bible Study](#)**