

# Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

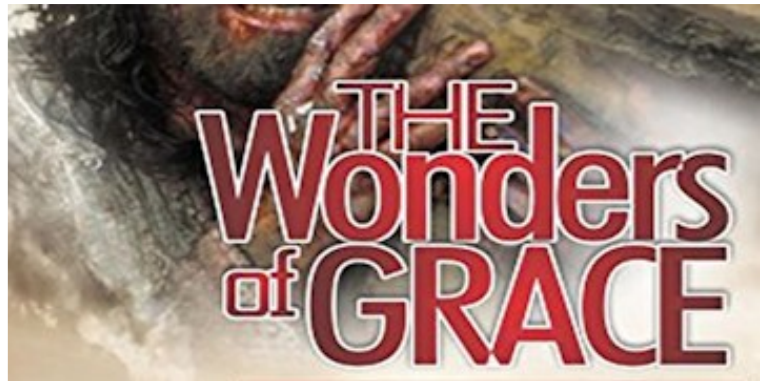
## Straight Arrow Ministries

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[www.straitarrow.net](http://www.straitarrow.net)

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### Featured Item

The Adventures of Space and Hobo



#### From the Foreword by John Houghton

I've had the pleasure of serving with Ken Birks for years as part of an eldership team in Roseville, California. When I first met Ken in the late 90s, I was impressed by his theological astuteness and sober-minded approach to church life. He had been a pastor, but it was more than that. He seemed to understand the boundaries and guidelines of scripture as they pertained to the local church and God's expectations for those He loved and saved.

I discovered that underneath this exterior of Biblical knowledge, there was a dynamic story of redemption. How had Ken come to know Jesus in his life? I knew it was a story embedded and fashioned out of the times we grew up. Ken's story narrates the empty and exhausting search that characterizes Ken's generation.

### The Wonders of His Grace

*2 Corinthians 9:8* And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

For those of us who have tasted the incredible outpouring of God's love, it's a breathtaking experience. It is an astounding thing to experience the pit He dug us out of and then to know and experience the wonders of His grace that now fill our hungry hearts. We have much to be thankful for all that His grace has accomplished in our lives. We have a Father who is rich in mercy and delights in showing us the wonders of His grace.

*Ephesians 2:4-5* But God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love which He has loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

What we are now experiencing is just a foretaste of the exceeding riches of His grace we will participate in in the ages to come. We have so much to look forward to as He prepares an eternal home for all of us who have come to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who poured Himself out as an offering for our sins.

As we allow the Holy Spirit's gentle breeze to blow upon us, He opens the eyes of our understanding to new revelation and insight. We then catch glimpses of what He has prepared for us in this life and the ages to come. Then, finally, His Spirit begins to lift us into the heavenly realms where we are seated with Him—a place where we experience the new life we now see from His perspective. The wonders of His grace fill our minds and hearts as we go forth in the mystery and wonder of His will working in our lives.

## The Wonders of Grace Continued

Because of His great love and grace, the Holy Spirit imparts the mind of Christ, His divine nature, into our spirits. With this, a newfound excitement causes us to quickly put off the old nature bound in sin and shame. Our old clothing no longer fits as we embrace the new. We now clothe ourselves in this new nature as we discard old as filthy rags. With our new clothing in place, we discover His grace is multi-faceted. It's like looking at a diamond with each angle sparkling with discoveries. There is much to learn as the wonders of His grace lead us into His great treasures from above.

With new divine abilities discovered, we go forth with hearts of faith to fulfill destiny and purpose. As we go from faith to faith, more of His treasures are uncovered, motivating us to press forward into all the Father continually pours into our lives. We discover that His grace continuously abounds towards us, with His sufficiency or divine abilities in all things, giving us an abundance for every good work.

As we trust in the reality of God's word and the promise seen in the opening passage, faith erupts in our hearts, exploding with the wonders of His grace working mightily in us as we reach forward to the things ahead. Even though we may not have attained all God has for us, we keep reaching forward in faith, knowing His word is accurate. Paul's testimony of reaching forward is found in the following passage of Scripture.

**Philippians 3:12-14** *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected: but I press on, that I may lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

May this be the testimony of our lives as we reach forward in the wonders of His grace. May our hearts be filled with faith as we experience the Father's great treasures from Heaven above.

## Last Month's 2nd Coming Bible Studies



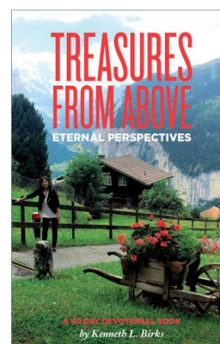
## More About Ken's Book



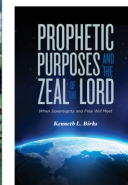
*The Adventures of Space and Hobo* tells the story of Ken's vagabond life after Vietnam. It explores the on-the-ground confusion and chaos of the Vietnam War and its effects on a generation and those who served. Named "Space" by a new friend, Hobo, Ken and his traveling companion hit the road to partake of all the possibilities of that generation in search of adventure and uncharted experiences. They were looking for what was genuine and authentic and the hidden mysteries behind it all. The story takes us step by step along the path of awakening a lost soul on his way to understanding himself, his path, and the meaning of his life.

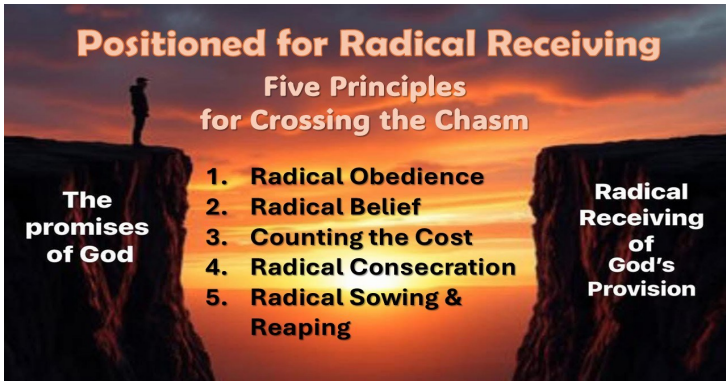
Ken's story allows us to watch as God's patience, protection, and kindness take every opportunity to express His love and intercept the consciousness of a young man looking for more but not knowing what. We see the diligent pursuit of a God who won't let go and can outwit our stubbornness, deception, and complacency. We see God who knows who belongs to Him and won't stop until we look with awe at how he has called and led us, without force, to a moment of awe-inspiring revelation and an actual change of identity, heart, and mind.

To Purchase Ken's Book,  
*"The Adventures of Space and Hobo,"*  
Click Here or on the book image



Booksbyken.com  
For Ken's First Four Books





**Podcast Sermon Feature**  
Positioned for Radical Receiving

This message deals with **Five Principles** that position us to become **Radical Receiver** of all God's Promises.

[Click Here to Listen](#)

**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.

**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.



This course features lessons that are designed to give you a solid Biblical foundation in the elementary truths of God's Word. They are designed with three things in mind - building a doctrinal foundation, developing godly character in your life and helping you discover and seize the destiny and purpose God has for your life.



**Ken's Poetic Testimony**  
**Caught in Pursuit of a Lost Soul**

by Ken Birks

In panic, crying out in desperation, I yearned to be free.  
Captivated by foolishness, 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.  
Jerking the line periodically, I knew You were still there.

Why do I run, fighting the hook, resisting being captured?  
Freight train hopping from everywhere I often wondered.  
With the hook set reeling me in periodically, I resisted.  
Letting go; I returned to sin and stubbornness.  
How long will Your patience last, I wondered, in my distress.

Breaking me, Your patience exhausted me, little by little.  
The battle raging for my soul continued in non-committal.  
What was resisted? Your unfailing love or fear of surrender?  
Lost in a spiritual maze of philosophies, I stood in wonder.  
What was it discovered so long ago, drawing me so near?

Not giving in, stubbornly refusing, I stood in denial.  
Lost in confusion, I desired but didn't quite know how.  
Blindsided, caught in a hypnotic trance, I finally decided.  
In a moment of intense struggle, worn out, I caved.  
The battle over, I was wrapped in the arms of Your love.

Taking opportunity, You waited to intercept.  
Outwitting stubbornness without force, You drew.  
Leading to awe-inspiring revelation, my spirit leapt.  
It was You I had looked for. Why did I wait, so distraught?  
Forever grateful for the pursuit of a lost soul, I was caught.

**For Complete Information on both workbooks,**  
**Click on the images below.**

This course features lessons that are focused on three major areas of our Christian growth: doctrine, character and destiny. These lessons are designed to give you deeper understanding of Biblical truths that will strengthen your Christian foundation.



## Resources from Straight Arrow Ministries



### Bible Study — Unraveling the Mystery of the Godhead



The study of the Godhead is an important doctrine for the Christian to understand. It is one of the major doctrines that orthodox Christianity teaches. It is a doctrine that separates Christianity from cults and so called Christian cults. It is considered a great mystery in Scripture, of which in this lesson our goal is to unravel this great mystery.

The question that arises concerning the Godhead, is how can God, who is one God, be three persons? God in the Bible is shown to be three distinct personalities: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. *“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one — 1 John 5:7.”*

The Eternal Godhead is revealed as one God existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are co-eternal, co-equal, and co-existent in attributes, power, nature, and glory.

The Bible teaches very explicitly that God is one, but it also teaches us that God is three. The study of God's oneness must always be in connection with God's threeness, and the study of God's threeness must always be in conjunction with the revelation of God's oneness; otherwise, either extreme can become heresy.

How is it that the Godhead is so clearly seen in creation? Let's think about this for a moment. What is it about the sun that so clearly represents Father God? Just as all light and energy emanate from the Father, so it is with the sun. We have already seen that God has life in Himself and draws his unending energy from Himself. What about the moon? How does the moon represent Jesus, the Son of God? Just as the moon reflects the glory of the sun, so Jesus, the Son of God reflects the glory of the Father. What is it about the stars that represent the Holy Spirit? It is the Holy Spirit Who represents the omnipresence of God. Just as the stars of heaven are everywhere, the Holy Spirit is everywhere.

The Tri-Unity of God or the Godhead is clearly seen through His creation as the apostle Paul expresses in the first chapter of Romans. We see the sun, moon, and stars as representatives of the Godhead — **Romans 1:20**

When we are connected to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we are connected to the fullness of the Godhead bodily and are able to receive all that God has made available to us through His Son — **Colossians 2:9-10**

God's revelation of Himself in Scripture is that He is One God in Three Persons: Eternal, Self-existent Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, distinguishable but indivisible.

**God Is Three - The Tri-Unity Of God** — As clearly as the Scriptures teach that God is one, they also teach that God is three. There is one God manifested in three persons, distinguishable but indivisible. These three are spoken to us as being The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit, co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existing in power, majesty, glory and essence. One God in three persons.

The God of the Bible is always revealed as Triune in nature and being. From Genesis to Revelation, whether by type or symbol, pattern or created things, or clear declaration, Scriptures consistently show that God is always revealed as One in Three and Three in One. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image. — Genesis 1:26."*

**The Bible Teaches Jesus As God** — For the Bible to be consistent in showing that God is Triune, it must also teach that Jesus is God. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God — John 1:1.”*

**John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**The Holy Spirit is referred to as God.** The Holy Spirit took part in the creation of the world. The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. *“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters — Genesis 1:2.”*

Scripture came by the inspiration of God or by the Holy Spirit. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness — 2 Timothy 3:16.”*

**For the Complete and Thorough Study on the Subject,  
Please Click the Link Below**



**Download the Godhead Study in PDF**

