

Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

Straight Arrow Ministries

January 2021 — Volume 4, Issue 1

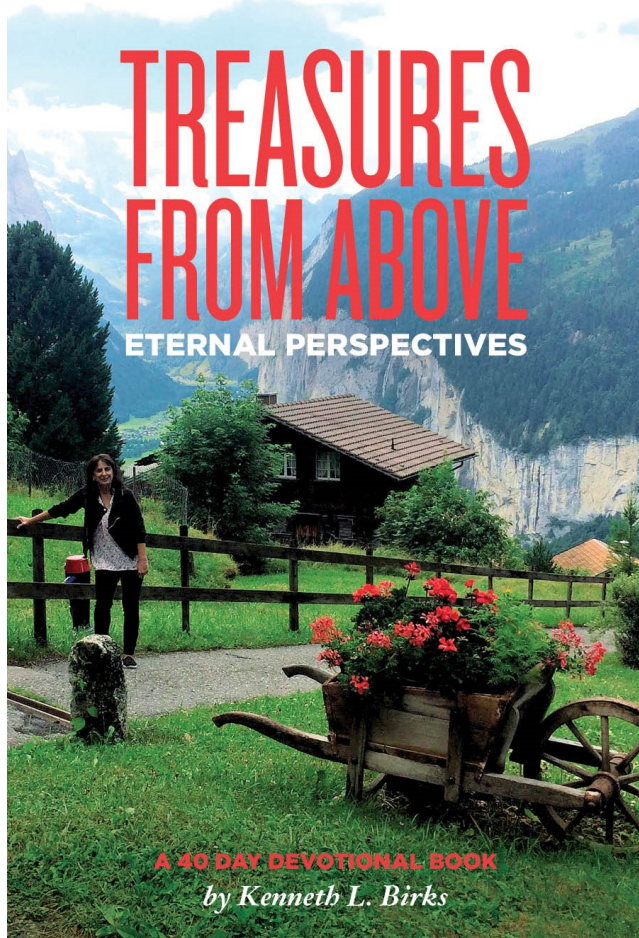
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New Book by Kenneth L Birks



Getting Into God's Playbook

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will answer."

In the game of football, players who are often written into their coach's playbook, to make the big plays, are those who know how to play their position well. They are where they're supposed to be when the ball is given to them. They must not only know their position well but know how to position themselves to make the great plays. When a coach recognizes their ability to consistently make the plays, they become an integral part of His playbook.

In Christ, we have all been given positions, ministries, gifts, and talents that make up our calling in God. We all have parts to play in the game of life. God desires to use us according to our individual abilities, both natural and spiritual, He has given to us. The more committed we are to playing according to His playbook, the more opportunities we will have to make the great plays. He wants to set up plays that fit the person He has uniquely fashioned us to be. Jesus alluded to this in the above Scripture where He said, "where I am, there My servant will be also." What Jesus is saying is that He expects us to be in position, so that we can handle the ball when given to us. Do you desire divine appointments, where the hand of God is visibly manifested for you to work alongside Him? If so, God will set divine appointments in place for you.

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God's Playbook continued from page 1

Years ago, while reading a book my wife was proofing for an evangelist friend, I was amazed by the vast number of divine appointments he was having. From witnessing and leading Pro-athletes to Christ to avoiding secret service agents so he could give a word to Presidents, he was having one divine encounter after another. As I pondered this, I heard the Lord whisper, "It's because he's always obedient to be where I'm working in his field of harvest." Jesus said to His disciples after having a divine appointment with the woman at the well, "Do you not say, 'There are still four months then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

Each of us has been given a harvest field to work in according to the grace and natural abilities we've been given. Your harvest field is your everyday life that involves, work, school, play, shopping, your neighborhood, and anything else that comes your way. As we look up to see where the Lord is working, divine appointments come our way. When we are faithful to serve God in the position, He has ordained for us, we are set to make great plays as He recognizes our obedience and desire to be written into His playbook. The Lord is waiting for you to take your harvest field seriously. He desires nothing more than to get you into His playbook by setting up some great plays specifically designed for the gifts and talents He's given you.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

The dynamic of God is that He is always at work and involved in making plans to bring forth greater kingdom dimensions, not only in our lives but in the people, He puts in our paths. The question is, are we sitting on the bench watching others make the plays or are we in the game making great plays for God? Do we desire to be written into God's playbook or are we satisfied with sitting on the bench? It is up to us! It's our choice.

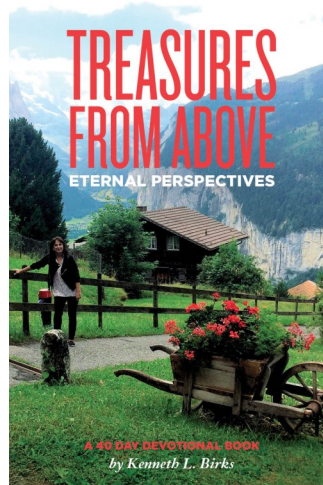
Website Features

Getting Into God's Playbook Resources from the Website

[Click Here for the Website](#)

[God's Playbook Sermon, Notes & Audio](#)

Ken's New Book Info



Complete info on Ken's latest book, "Treasures from Above" and his other books can be found at:

www.booksbyken.com

These devotionals 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.

Reviews

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 in the Foreword, "When thinking about reading a devotional, one has to ask themselves two questions — is it relevant and what is it that makes it stand apart from the myriad of devotionals one can choose from? From my perspective, devotionals can be vital tools in improving upon our quiet time experience with God. They should be able to bring scriptural insight to us. Scripture is far more important than the words of even the most famous of authors for 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."

Pastor Ken L. Birks

Ken's Bookstore
Straight Arrow Ministries

Booksbyken.com
All Books \$12.00

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TREASURES FROM ABOVE
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Poet's Corner

The Harvest Field

Looking upward, sensing the hand of God over all, we pursue.
Looking inward, we question, "What's our part in the harvest?"
Looking outward, the harvest ripe for picking stands in full view.
Looking forward faith arises, as we gain vision and understanding.
Looking backward, sensing the loss of time wasted, we woo.

Ready and willing, we're shown how to labor, unharnessed.
With inventory tallied; talents, and gifts, He uses for harvest.
With sense of purpose rising within, we commit to Him above.
From wisdom above, treasures given are employed.
Shown purpose for what's given, fruit comes forth unspoiled.

Into His field, eyes wide open, to those around us, we see.
Pain and turmoil on the faces encountered, we labor to free.
Taking note, hopelessness rests on many walking aimlessly.
Hoping for care, those hungry, stand with signs, shamelessly.
Yes, the fields are white for harvest. Where are the laborers?

Dying to self, taking up His cross, vision, and purpose appear.
Seeing the needs before us, we ask, "What would Jesus do?"
Our part, not to question motive, but to trust in His guidance.
Committing ways to Him, He directs and chooses in alliance.
In obedience and faithfulness, we go into His harvest.



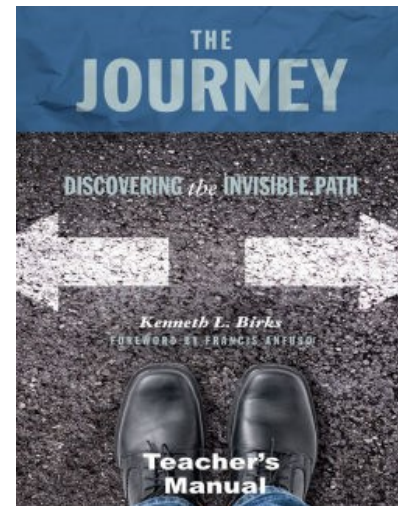
Seminars

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 detoured 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**



Donations Accepted

Make a Donation: Receive a FREE PDF Copy of "Treasures from Above"

Donations can be given either through Venmo, the Cash App or PayPal via Credit Card. Most of my stuff found on my website, www.kenbirks.com such as Bible Studies, and Sermon Outlines are free to download. Your donations help to keep them free.. For PayPal, click on the link below.

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Five Top 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. It is considered a great mystery in Scripture, of which the goal of this lesson is to unravel the truth.

All five of these Bible Studies plus many more can be downloaded in either PDF or Word Form by clicking the link below.

[Click Here Now to Download](#)

Five Top 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 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

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[Click Here Now to Download](#)

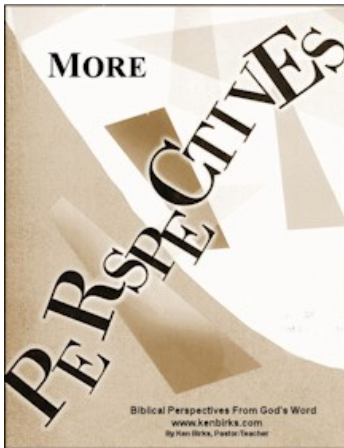
Perspectives Course & Class

The Perspectives Course includes foundations for biblical understanding that were developed for providing believers lessons 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](#)

To Learn more about this class and how you can incorporate it into the life of your church and ministry or simply to purchase the workbooks



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](#)

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.



About Kenneth L. Birks

Ken Birks is an ordained Pastor/Teacher in the Body of Christ. He has functioned as an elder, one of the staff pastors, and a Bible teacher at The Rock of Roseville in California for the past 20 years. He is presently semi-retired with a writing ministry and serves as a wedding officiant in the Sacramento region. Prior to this, Ken was the Senior 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 41 years, plus. They have two adult children and consider them their highest calling, along with the many teens and children to whom they've been foster or surrogate parents to over the past 33 years.