

# Sowing Seeds of Faith Newsletter

## Straight Arrow Ministries

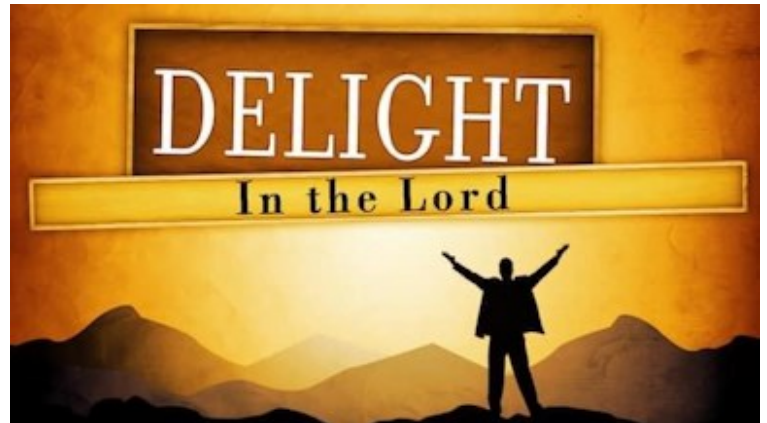
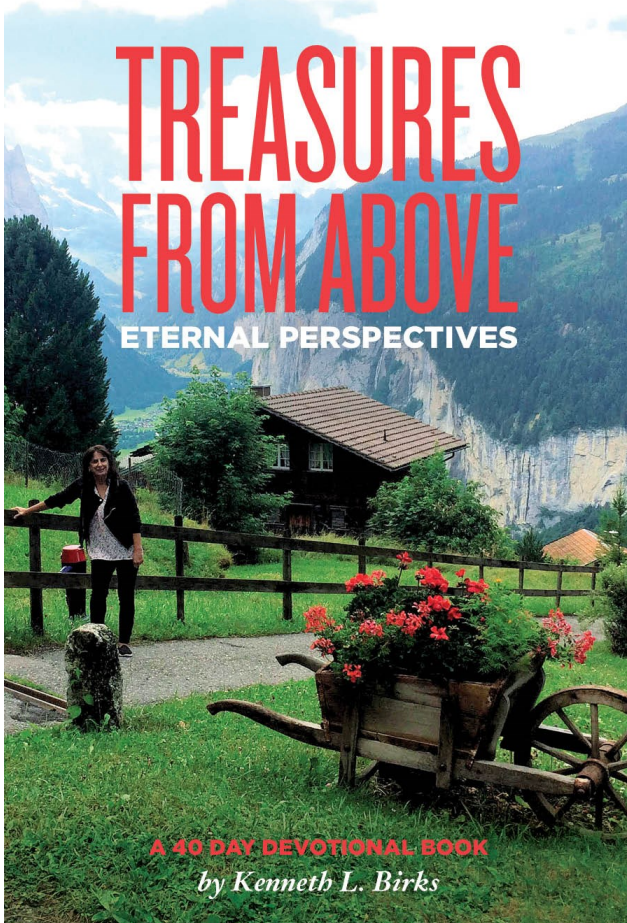
November 2024 — Volume 5, Issue 4

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

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### Featured Item Treasures from Above



### Delighting in God's Love

*John 3:16* For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him might be saved.

Jesus was the perfect expression of the Father's love. The fact that Jesus was given to us as a sacrificial Lamb to take away our sins and present us spotless to the Father above is the most significant expression of love that's ever been given.

Jesus constantly portrayed the Father's love as He went forth in ministry to those who were considered outcasts and needed to be wrapped in His love. Jesus expressed the warmth of the Father's heart exquisitely when He said, speaking of the children of Israel, "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."

Our Father above wants nothing more than to indulge us in the warmth of His great love as He wraps us under the shadow of His wings. He deeply desires to keep us as the apple of His eye as we hide under the shadow of His wings.

As we faithfully meditate upon His great love, He reminds us of His goodness and wonderful works towards us. In doing so, He satisfies our longing souls and fills our hungry hearts with His goodness. Daily, reminded of His beautiful thoughts towards us just as David was, our faith in Him grows stronger.

*Psalms 139:17* How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

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## *Delighting in God's Love (Continued)*

As we focus on God's beautiful thoughts towards us, they draw us into a greater degree of intimacy with Him while we delight in His tremendous love. By continually setting our hearts on things above rather than earthly discomforts and trials, He lifts us above all that is mundane and burdensome.

**Colossians 3:2** *Set your mind on things above, not on things of earth.*

To delight in the Father's love, is to set our hearts on Him. By setting aside time each day to draw near to God, we delight in His presence. Whether through meditation, reading, or the study of His word, worship, or intercession, it's something we do proactively.

We cannot afford to allow condemnation, guilt, and the pressures of our daily lives to keep us from soaking in His presence. Even though His love and presence is still there, condemnation and guilt block us from sensing it. His desire is for us to come boldly into His presence and experience the warmth and the joy that flows from His heart towards ours.

## 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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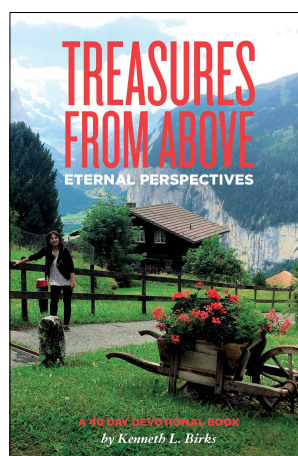
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## About Ken's Book

[Booksbyken.com](http://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."

Phoenix Larsen writes: As an avid devotional reader, I've never read one that ties scripture and poetry into daily readings making them beautiful. I liken his poetry to Robert Frost, who takes everyday circumstances and translates them into something transcendent.

[Click Here for Details](#)



**Click Here or on the Graphic Above  
to Watch the Podcast**

This Video Podcast is about how our lives must be in sync with God's purposes if we are to experience the abundant life He promised us. It deals with the fact that we must be God-centered and not self-centered in order to be in sync with what God desires for each one of us. When we are God centered, we are more aware of how He is working in all that we do. It connects us with His sovereignty.

**For more information  
and to download the notes**

**[Click Here](#)**

**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 work found on my website, [kenbirks.com](http://kenbirks.com) such as Bible Studies, and Sermon Outlines are free to download. Your donations help to keep them free. To Donate Use the following:

**Venmo ID: @Ken-Birks  
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**Looking Out My Window  
by Ken Birks**

Looking out my window, I see God's wonders in the skies.  
With expectations of a new day, sunrise is seen as it rises.  
What will the day bring that wraps me in the arms of His love?  
As the sun rises, eyes are blinded by its brightness above.  
Gazing upon its beauty, new revelation awakens with His love.

Looking out my window, I feel the sun's warmth so bright.  
Squirrels play joyfully without thought or care of fright.  
In the beauty of His created ones, God's hand is seen.  
As squirrels and sparrows play and fly freely, His care is seen.  
More than those who chirp and play, in us, He delights.

Looking out my window, sadness is seen on some passing by.  
As the homeless walk by, I wonder where they sleep tonight.  
As the sun fades, it gives way to darkness and cold with bite.  
I pray the provider supplies needs as the sun fades away.  
As birds and squirrels play and chirp are provided for, I pray.

Looking out my window, mothers and children stroll by.  
Rejoicing in their little miracles of birth, they sing lullaby.  
Gazing upon their beauty, their hearts fill with wonder.  
Aware of God's faithfulness, their cups fill with gratefulness.  
Taking note of the beauty and wonder of God, I give praise.

Looking out my window, stray cats bask in the sunlight.  
Sleeping contentedly, well-fed, though they've no home.  
Neighborhood their home, they disappear into the night.  
In thanks, I give praise for the significance of a stray cat.  
In awareness, I realize I'm more significant in His sight.

Looking out my window, I'm filled with amazement.  
Viewing His splendor, I delight in all created for enjoyment.  
Looking with care over what's conceived, peace liberates.  
As faith arises, His love washes in all that He's achieved.  
Wrapped in His tender love, the moment is enjoyed.

# 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  
to View all Ten Sermon Outlines**