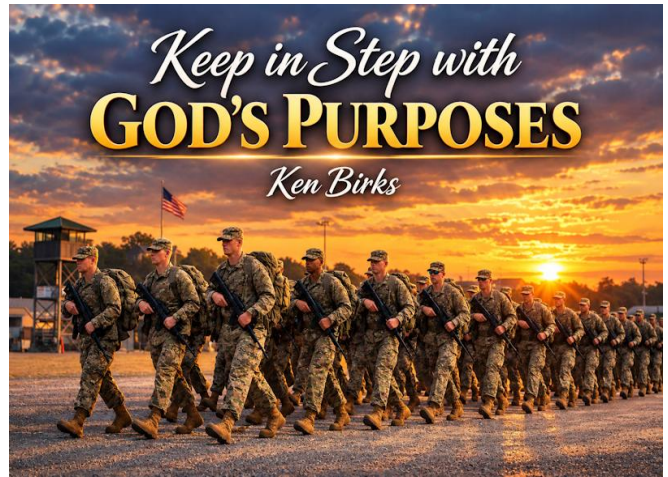


Keeping in Step with God's Purposes

By Ken Birks, Pastor, Bible Teacher, Author

We are living in a moment when the Spirit of God is calling His people to a deeper, more intentional walk—one marked not by hurried striving but by holy synchronization with His purposes. The days ahead demand a Church that knows how to move with heaven's rhythm, a people who understand that spiritual maturity is found not in self-effort but in yielding to the mighty working of God within. To keep in step with Him is to enter a life where every stride is guided, every



season is purposeful, and every challenge becomes an opportunity for His power to be revealed. In this devotional, we step into a prophetic invitation: to align our pace with God's pace, our will with His will, and our journey with the divine path He has already prepared for us.

Colossians 1:29 *To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.*

Paul's words strike like a prophetic drumbeat for this moment: *"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."* Here is the heartbeat of a life keeping in step with God—not driven by human effort alone but energized by the very power of God moving within us. Paul understood that true spiritual progress never comes from our strength, discipline, or determination; it comes from yielding to the One whose mighty work aligns our steps with His purpose. As God prepares His Church for what lies ahead, this verse becomes a prophetic invitation: stop striving in our own energy, surrender to His pace, and let His power carry us into the fullness of His calling.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 *declares, Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.*

We must remember this unshakable truth: we were saved according to God's purposes, not our own. The Holy Spirit is continually working in us to fulfill the Father's will on earth—just as He did in the life of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. And just as Jesus submitted Himself to the sovereign purposes of His Father, we too are called to walk in that same obedience. As the passage above reminds us, we were *"saved and called with a holy calling... according to His own purpose and grace,"* a purpose written over our lives before time itself began.

Throughout Paul's writings, a consistent intensity—a prophetic urgency—calls the Church

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to keep in step with God. His words are not casual suggestions; they are divine summonses. He paints a vision of believers moving in sync with heaven's agenda, refusing to drift into complacency. The prophet Joel echoes this same picture: a mighty people marching in perfect formation, every step aligned with the thunderous voice of the Lord going before them. This is not passivity—it is divine alignment, a Church awakened to her calling, moving with precision, purpose, and the power of God's Spirit.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that God is preparing His people for all that must unfold before the return of Christ, and now is the moment to ensure our lives are fully synchronized with His purposes. Scripture tells us that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord—not randomly or loosely, but intentionally—because God has written every day of our lives in His book, fashioned our purpose before we were formed, and sees our future with perfect clarity. To keep in step with Him is to walk in the path He already knows, the path He has already prepared, the path where His delight rests upon us.

Yet God does not ask us to walk this path alone. He has given us the Holy Spirit—our Helper, our Guide, our Counselor—who comes alongside us with infinite wisdom and power. The Spirit knows everything about everything, and He longs to lead us into truth, strength, and alignment. Our greatest obstacle is not the world around us but the self within us—the tendency to rely on our own sufficiency.

The key to keeping in step with God is learning to let Him order our steps. *Psalm 37:23–24 reminds us that “the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”* God does not simply observe our journey—He actively directs it. He delights in guiding His people into the very purposes He wrote over their lives before time began. We are not wandering aimlessly; we are walking out a divine script authored by a God who knows our beginning, our end, and every detail in between.

This is why surrendering our steps to Him is so essential. We were created with purpose. He has recorded every moment of our lives in His book. He comprehends our path, our thoughts, our words before they are spoken, as declared in the book of Psalms.¹ He saw our substance before we were formed and fashioned our days with intentionality and care.² To keep in step with God is not restrictive—it is protective. It is for our good. His leadership is not burdensome; it is the loving guidance of a Father who knows exactly where He is taking us and how to get there.

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Stay in Step

One of the greatest gifts God has given us is the Holy Spirit—an all-powerful Helper who

¹ Psalm 139:3–4

² Psalm 139:16–17

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comes alongside us, who knows everything about everything, and who is committed to guiding us into the fullness of God's purpose. Yet I have learned that this is where we often struggle. Instead of yielding to His leadership, we sometimes resist Him—sometimes consciously, often unconsciously—by trusting our own thoughts, instincts, and reasoning more than His voice. We may never say it out loud, but every time we fail to consult Him, we are declaring that our way is better than His.

The Holy Spirit longs to help us. He desires to empower every step we take. Jesus promised, *"I will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."* And He added, *"He will guide you into all truth... and He will tell you things to come."*³ The Spirit is not passive—He is actively working to align us with heaven's agenda. Yet if we refuse His leading, we frustrate God's grace rather than embrace it. Paul understood this deeply when he wrote, *"I labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."* He wasn't striving in his own strength—he was keeping in step with the Spirit's power.

The greatest obstacle to keeping in step with God is not the devil, not the world, not our circumstances—it is us. We have been conditioned to rely on our own understanding, strength, and instincts. The Helper keeps us aligned with God's purposes.

Four Principles for Staying in Step

Principle #1 — Commit Your Ways to the Lord

Keeping in step with God begins with daily surrender. *"Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established."* *We plan our ways, but the Lord directs our steps.*⁴ This is our daily cross—acknowledging Him in all our ways so He can make our paths straight.

Principle #2 — Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

We walk by faith, not by sight.⁵ Faith is a journey—from faith to faith⁶. God rarely gives us the full picture. Instead, He leads step by step, phase by phase. Sometimes those steps are small. Other times they're giant steps. But every step keeps us aligned with His purpose.

Principle #3 — Keep in Step During Seasons of Transition

Life is filled with seasons, and transitions can easily cause us to lose sight of our purpose. *"To everything there is a season."*⁷ My wife and I have walked through many seasons—coming into ministry, serving as lead pastors, resigning to partner with another church,

³ John 16:13

⁴ Proverbs 16:3,9

⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:7

⁶ Romans 1:17

⁷ Ecclesiastes 3:1

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entering new ministry roles, and stepping into unexpected assignments.

We didn't always know what the next season would hold. We simply kept putting one foot in front of the other, trusting that God had our future mapped out. When we became foster parents to more than 25 children over 25 years, we had no idea that this season would last so long or become such a defining part of our calling. Yet God made it clear to me that this was one of our primary purposes then.

Later, when my season as a Bible teacher ended and I transitioned into writing, I didn't know that God would lead me to write six books or guide me into devotional poetry. But embracing each season wholeheartedly has kept me in step with His purpose—even when the vehicle of ministry changed.

Many lose their rhythm with God in seasons of transition. The shifting ground exposes what was unstable, and some begin to drift—backsliding into old patterns or moving forward without a sense of identity, purpose, or spiritual clarity. They keep walking, but the walk becomes mechanical, disconnected from the One who orders their steps.

Yet even here, hope breaks through. The moment a heart turns back—repentant, honest, and yielded—God does what only He can do: He reestablishes their steps. He realigns the path. He restores the inner compass. As they acknowledge Him in all their ways, the fog lifts, and their feet find the cadence of His direction once again, because God never stops calling His people back into step with Him.⁸

Principle #4 — Keep in Step During Difficult Times

This may be the most critical principle of all. Hardship has a way of knocking people out of step. Paul told Timothy, *"You must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."*⁹ Soldiers do not entangle themselves with distractions—they stay focused on pleasing the One who enlisted them.

Job understood this deeply. Even when he could not perceive God's presence, he declared, *"He knows the way that I take... my foot has held fast to His steps."*¹⁰ Job stayed in step even when life made no sense. That is the mark of a mature believer.

As we stand on the threshold of all God is unfolding in this hour, the Spirit is calling us to shake off every hesitation and bring our lives into full alignment with His purposes. This is not a season for half-steps or divided affections—it is a season for wholehearted surrender, for tuning our ears to His voice and matching our stride to His leading. The One who wrote our days before time began is now inviting us to walk them out with courage, clarity, and

⁸ Proverbs 3:5–6

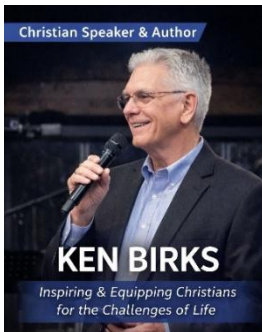
⁹ 2 Timothy 2:3

¹⁰ Job 23:10–12

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unwavering trust. If we yield to His ordering of our steps, the Holy Spirit will empower us to move with heaven's rhythm—through seasons of faith, transition, and hardship—until our lives become a living testimony of His mighty working within us. And when our race is finished, may we stand like Paul, with fire in our hearts and faith in our hands, able to declare with confidence and joy, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*¹¹

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God's nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

Out of those sacred encounters came a desire to write — not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, the same clarity, the same holy encouragement that has carried them through life's valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

Today, Ken writes to help fellow believers pause, breathe, and rediscover the treasures God longs to place within them. Ken's hope is simple: that every reader will feel the Father's nearness, hear His voice more clearly, and walk with renewed courage into the calling He has lovingly prepared.

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¹¹ 2 Timothy 4:7