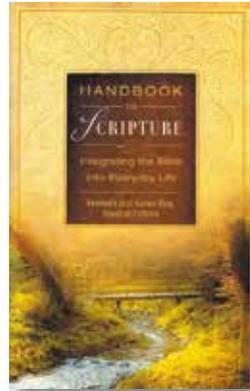


**KEN BOA'S NEWEST  
PAPERBACK HANDBOOKS**



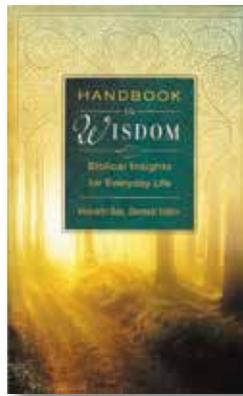
**Handbook to Scripture:  
Integrating the Bible into  
Everyday Life**

A guide through the highlights of Scripture with overviews of 365 key chapters during the course of a year. This handbook also gives you daily prayers and meditation passages to help you internalize the message of each chapter.

*Handbook to Scripture* (374 pages) ..... \$10.00ea

**Handbook to Wisdom:  
Biblical Insights for  
Everyday Life**

This simple wisdom resource has four sections. The first two are biblical praises and promises that begin with a statement of the praise or promise followed by a supporting Scripture and a prayer of application. The last two are wisdom and truth, and these begin with a wisdom principle or truth topic followed by a supporting Scripture and a prayer of application or a story.



*Handbook to Wisdom* (336 pages) ..... \$10.00ea

**REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES BOOKSTORE**

For those of you in the Atlanta area, we have a book collection of about 250 titles in the Reflections Ministries office that are available for sale. These are books that are recommended for people who are involved in our ministries. For more information about the bookstore, please call the Reflections Ministries office.



We invite you to visit our **Reflections Ministries** website to see some of the growing number of resources that are available to help you in your thinking and practice.

(Georgia residents: please add 8% sales tax)

[www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)



**THE PROMISES OF GOD**

EYES TO SEE LUKE 2:25-32

The comics section of Sunday newspapers is a source of delight—and frustration—for children of all ages. Years ago, many papers carried the popular colored panels made up of seemingly unrecognizable shapes and designs which, when focused upon in exactly the right way, reveal clever three-dimensional images for the viewer. There is a skill to getting the images in focus: Hold the image in front of your nose, look “through” the image and focus on a point beyond the paper, then move the image slowly away from your face. Many people have the images pop into view immediately; others haven’t seen their first one. Some squeal with delight at the clever 3-D images; others squeal in mock anger at being defeated by the wiggly lines.

Why do some people see things that others cannot see? When it comes to 3-D images in the Sunday comics, it’s simply a matter of practice; no spiritual acumen is needed. But that is not true in the kingdom of God. God’s truths are seen by those who have eyes to see (Matthew 13:13-15) and those who want to know (John 7:17). Though there are obstacles (2 Corinthians 4:4), God can overcome them and give sight to those who are looking.

Though God has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ, not everyone has seen him. One man recognized him at the most unlikely juncture imaginable—when Jesus was an infant and the man was near the end of his life. How could an elderly Israelite man, who had been waiting to see the Messiah all his life, recognize Jesus as the Messiah when he was only forty days old? The infant Jesus likely looked no different than other Jewish

baby boys, so what prompted Simeon to say, “My eyes have seen your salvation”? The same thing, the only thing, that will prompt you to voice the same words—a heart that is looking to behold him.

Have you seen Jesus Christ with the eyes of your heart and mind? If so, keep them fixed on him, the author and perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

**GOD’S PROMISE TO YOU:** *“If you have seen my Son by faith, you have also seen me.”*

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 275

REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES

One Piedmont Center, Suite 130 • Atlanta, Georgia 30305  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



[www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)



**REFLECTIONS**

Reflections on God’s revealed truth  
FEBRUARY 2012

**EXPECTING  
GREAT  
AND  
WONDERFUL  
THINGS**

O Lord, I thank You that You can use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. The source of the power is not from us, but from Your Holy Spirit. May I not set my sights low, but expect great and wonderful things from You, even things I do not understand. Sometimes I am gripped with fear and insecurity, and these are the times when I have taken my eyes off You. I want to be faithful to the many opportunities You have given me so that I will learn to look to You for all things. May I learn the wisdom of abiding in Christ as a branch abides in the vine, so that I will draw my life and impact from You instead of trying to create life on my own. I ask for Your Spirit to exhort, encourage, comfort and teach me in the times when I embrace the wisdom of obedience, and even in the times when I stray from You.

A teaching letter to encourage believers to Develop a Clear Mind and a warm heart



## HOPING IN WHAT WILL NEVER FADE AWAY

Many years ago, an old farmer brought his family to the big city for the very first time. They had never seen buildings so tall or sights so impressive. The farmer dropped his wife off at a department store and took his son with him to the bank—the tallest of all the buildings. As they walked into the lobby, they saw something else they had never seen before. Two steel doors opened. A rather large and elderly woman walked in, and the big doors closed behind her. The dial over the door swept to the right and then back to the left. The doors opened and a beautiful young woman came walking out.

The farmer was amazed. He turned to his son and said, “You wait right here. I’m going to get your mother and run her through that thing!”

Our bodies gradually age and die, but our living hope is in the Lord Jesus who will receive us to Himself and “transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory” (Philippians 3:21).

CREDIT CARD DONATIONS TO REFLECTIONS MINISTRIES  
For your convenience, you can now make contributions to the work of Reflections Ministries by credit card. You can call the Reflections Ministries office (404-842-0707) or visit our website ([www.kenboa.org](http://www.kenboa.org)) for more information.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
KEN BOA'S  
MEDIA RESOURCES  
You can keep in touch with Ken via  
Twitter at [KennethBoa](https://twitter.com/KennethBoa) or on  
Facebook at [Kenneth Boa](https://www.facebook.com/KennethBoa)  
Also, join a conversation with Ken by  
reading and responding to his uplifting  
and encouraging post on his Blog site:  
[KenBoa.org/blog](http://KenBoa.org/blog)

*A teaching letter of*

## THE PURSUIT OF GOD—PART 36

This Reflections series is based on my 11-part CD teaching series on A. W. Tozer’s spiritual classic, *The Pursuit of God*.

*“I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in my Father’s name and you do not receive me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?” (John 5:41-44)*

Last month we observed Tozer’s insightful comment on this passage: “the desire for honor among men makes belief impossible.” Our beliefs are shaped by the audience to whom we play. If we seek honor from men, we will not seek to honor the Lord.

### Lifting Up Requires Bowing Down

This issue presents a defining moment in the life of every Christian. For either you choose to honor him above all else and thereby press on toward Christlikeness, or you choose the plaudits of others over God and stall out in your Christian walk. You have to ask yourself yet again, “Which audience are you performing for?” It cannot be both God and somebody else, for it is impossible to simultaneously please God and impress people. The temptation will be to choose the downhill path, for it’s easy and both sides are lined with adoring crowds cheering you on. But intimacy with God does not lie at the bottom of the hill. It lies at the top. And it can only be reached by taking the uphill trail, the one Jesus took to the cross and then to glory.

*Touching the Void* is the title of a recent film about two young climbers. Joe

Simpson and Simon Yates set out to climb the west face of the Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes in 1985, a feat that had previously been attempted but never achieved. With an extra man looking after base camp, Joe and Simon decided to climb alpine style – in one long push over several days.

Statistics show that 80 percent of the deaths and injuries in climbing occur on the descent rather than the ascent. Their decent was added to that 80 percent. They reached the peak with few problems, but on the way down Joe fell and broke his leg. Despite the hopelessness of the situation, the two continued the descent with Simon slowly lowering Joe down on a rope for 300 meters, then descending to join him and repeating the process. At one point Joe is lowered over a vertical abyss, with nothing below and no ability to climb back up. Simon is forced to make an agonizing decision – to cut the rope, so that both of them don’t die. Joe fell into a crevice covered in deep snow. Simon, assuming he’s dead, continued on down. However, Joe had survived the fall by landing on a ledge within the crevice.

The rest of the film tells the story of how Simon discovers that Joe is still alive and so lowers himself into the crevice, with no apparent way to climb out. In a last ditch effort Simon descends further into the crevice, hoping to somehow find a way out. He does.

Eventually he makes it back to the original camp, enlists the help of others, and rescues his friend. It is quite an amazing story with a miraculous outcome.

Yet, what struck me most about the story was that in

the face of certain death, neither man once appealed to God for help. In the book by the same title, Joe describes his early exposure to the Catholic faith tradition and his rejection of it. In time, he became hostile to God, considering him to be totally irrelevant to his life. He had willfully become a person beyond the point of no return, a man with a heart that had been hardened toward God.

**“I have one fear: that I may convince the mind before God can win the heart.”**

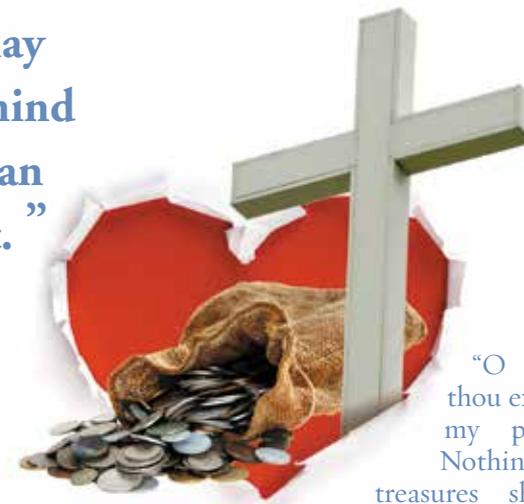
This story serves as a cautionary tale for our spiritual journey. For even as God’s children we can willfully harden our hearts. And while this does not place our eternal salvation at risk, it does place our earthly lives and our eternal rewards at risk. I urge you to choose to humble yourself, exalt God, and thereby strengthen your heart, while you still have the opportunity. Resist the temptation to go the other way by exalting yourself and hardening your heart. We can only lift God up in our hearts by bowing them down in humble submission.

Tozer confesses; “I have one fear: that I may convince the mind before God can win the heart. For this *God-above-all* position is one not easy to take. The mind may approve it while not having the consent of the will to put into effect.” That is, it is possible for your mind to go along with a decision for which your heart is not quite ready. Tozer well understood human tendencies when he wrote, “While the imagination races ahead to honor God, the will may lag behind and the man must make the decision before the heart can know any real satisfaction. God wants the whole person and he will not rest until he gets us in entirety. No part of man will do.”

### Your Prayer

Tozer concludes this chapter with the following words: “God will unveil his glory before his servant’s eyes, and he will place all his treasures at the disposal of such a one, for he knows that his honor is safe in such consecrated hands.”

Are you ready for God to consecrate the hands of your heart? If so, he’s willing to entrust to those hands his greatest treasures. This prayer is a good place to start:



“O God, be thou exalted over my possessions. Nothing of earth’s treasures shall seem dear unto me if only thou art glorified in my life. Be thou exalted over my friendships. I am determined that thou shalt be above all, though I must stand deserted and alone in the midst of the earth. Be thou exalted above my comforts. Though it mean the loss of bodily comforts and the carrying of heavy crosses, I shall keep my vow made this day before thee. Be thou exalted over my reputation. Make me ambitious to please thee even if as a result I must sink into obscurity and my name be forgotten as a dream. Rise, O Lord, into thy proper place of honor, above my ambitions, above my likes and dislikes, above my family, my health and even my life itself. Let me sink that thou mayest rise above.

Ride forth upon me as thou didst into Jerusalem mounted upon the humble little beast, a colt, the foal of an ass and let me hear the children cry to thee, ‘Hosanna in the highest.’ Amen.

