

# Gleaning In The Fields Of Light

By Ken Woodley

## Let The Ashes Remind Us Of The Flame

And so our lenten journey has begun. Forty days across the spirit meadows and 40 nights over the soul mountains to the shoreline of the Sea of Galilee with its gentle waves reaching toward us even now in its widening embrace. A high tide of God's love and grace.

As brothers and sisters in Christ within the outstretched arms of a waiting, loving God, we each bring a spark of Christ within us to candle-flame the darkness and send it retreating from the face of our own flickering that summons strength for this journey.

Let us walk together for these few moments through the bright eternal flame of the life of Jesus, right up to this very second.

And let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*"Here is my servant who I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight.*

*I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.*

*He will not shout or cry out or raise his voice in the streets.*

*A bruised reed he will not break*

*And a smoldering wick he will not snuff out."*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*"When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.'*

*Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.*

*'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean'*

*Immediately the man was cured."*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will*

*live. On that day you will realize that I am in my father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*“It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining.*

*And the curtain in the temple was torn in two.*

*Jesus called out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*“Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore but they did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*He called out to them, ‘Friends, haven’t you any fish?’*

*‘No,’ they answered.*

*He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’*

*When they did they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.”*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

*“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

*We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit...*

*God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him.”*

So let the ashes remind us of the flame.

And may our Lenten journey be guided by this inner light toward the resurrection cross of blooming flowers, the hallelujah garden of God’s love toward which our Good Shepherd leads us.

The world may surround us and mark us with its ashes, but there is a flame deep within us that the world cannot touch.

And it is inextinguishable.

