

“May Our Hearts Burn!”

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Many times we face difficulties and struggles that seem to take the joy out of life and we don't see an end. What we need is God's fire in our lives, giving us purpose and direction, taking us farther than the salvation won for us by Jesus Christ. How do we get hearts burning with passion and purpose? Our passage today gives us clues to fuel a fire in our lives, and to move from breaking hearts.

Open to Luke 24. Two followers of Jesus, shaken up by the last week of events, Jesus' trials, death, and so-called appearances, were headed out of Jerusalem, talking about what had happened there. Look at verses 14-16, *“And they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”* These men were battling the big D's: depression, discouragement, disillusionment.

They were so confused, they began to think of Jesus as a prophet instead of the Messiah since He died on the cross. To add to their confusion, they're now being told His tomb was empty. Their faith is fragile. They don't know what to think or what to believe. Their hearts are heavy. They are so numb they don't even realize Jesus' presence as He is walking with them.

What about you? Is your heart heavy as you try to cope with the hardships and anxieties of life? Are you numb to the presence of Jesus? Jesus' presence will become very real to you as you open your heart to Him and His Word.

Jesus refuses to leave these two in the same state that He finds them.

Jesus reveals Himself through Scripture. Notice what He says in verses 25-27, *“And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

The devil will try to do everything he can to keep us away from God's Holy Word. And Satan intensifies his behavior during the hard times in our lives. He knows that the cure for a heavy heart is Christ revealed through Scripture, but he will work to have you not seek Him there.

Be alert and don't fall for the schemes of the devil. Stay in God's Word every day and increase the amount of the Word you devour especially during the hard times. Allow life's hardships and trials to drive you to God's Word. It's in God's Word that Jesus will come to you and the Holy Spirit will use it to focus your attention on Jesus instead of your difficulty.

Jesus' presence is with those that open their hearts to Him. These two men open their hearts to Jesus and He cares for them in a very special way. Look at verses 28-31, *“So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to*

them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.”

Jesus desires to spend time with us. Jesus says in Revelation 3:20, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”* Keep your hearts open to Jesus. Never let Him stand outside and knock. If you do, the anxieties of life can and will overtake you.

Heavy Hearts are set on Fire. Look at verse 32, *“They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”* Heavy hearts are set on fire through Jesus’ presence and His revealed Word. Is your heart heavy today or is it burning with the presence of Jesus? Jesus will set your heart on fire as you open it to His presence and His Word.

Our Hearts Should Burn with Desire. We should burn with a desire to tell others about Christ. What a wonderful privilege we have to tell others of the Saving Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We should have a desire to let our light shine before others. The old saying that actions speak louder than words is very true. No one will see your faith without some action behind it!

Our Hearts Should Burn with Devotion. Open to John 21. Jesus deserves our devotion. Jesus wanted to find where Peter's devotion was. Look at verses 15-17, *“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”* Is there anything in your life you are more devoted to or love more than the Lord Jesus? If there is, be careful and change!

Our Hearts should burn with Determination. What’s that burning sensation in your heart? Is it for the Lord and the spiritual things of heaven? Are your thoughts on things above, or are they on earthly things? Do you proclaim Christ crucified in everything you do, or are you seeking what the world has to offer? Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, *“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.”*

Jesus is knocking on your heart’s door. He knows what you’re going through on your road to Emmaus. He’s goes out of His way to care for you and love you today and every day.

Let Jesus into your heart and stay in His Word. Jesus’ presence and His Word will cause your heart to burn. Life’s difficulties won’t bother you as you seek Him and live for Him alone!