Daily Devotion #183

**Would You Recognize Him?**

**Luke 24:32 (NASB)** *“They said to one another, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?’"*

I remember as a young boy growing up in the little Methodist church just up the hill from our house. It was a small two-building church. Meaning, literally two buildings. One was the sanctuary; the other was the fellowship hall/Sunday School room and nursery. They were functional and gave us a place to worship and fellowship and live life together in that community.

I remember vividly the hard wooden pews and how my brother, cousin, and I, in the summer season, sat in the back because there was a fan in the window blowing air in from outside while on the other side of the building there was a fan exhausting the heat from the room. Often, our stiff Sunday shirts would stick to the back of the pews which made it fun to slowly pull away to see how long our shirt could stay attached to the pew.

I also remember the handheld cardboard fan that was supplied by the church that was conveniently placed in the hymn rack in the back of the pew. I remember those fans because they were very necessary equipment to go along with the window fans. On those handheld fans was an artist rendering of Jesus. He was a handsome, long- haired young man. I can still see that portrait in my mind. For many years, that image of Jesus is what I would see in my mind’s eye as I offered my prayers to Him. But as I grew to be more mature and understood the time when Jesus lived on earth, I realized that there would be no image of Him from His day. That image I had was something made up by the artist, probably from their own imagination of what Jesus looked like.

But as much as we don’t know what Jesus looked like physically, there are many who do not recognize Jesus at all, even spiritually. And that is evident by the two men who Jesus encountered just after His resurrection. They had been in Jerusalem in the midst of the horrifying time of Jesus’s crucifixion, and they had been greatly overwhelmed by Jesus and His power to do great and mighty things. So much so that they had hoped He was the One to rescue Israel - to set up His reign as King and put Rome under His feet. But that did not happen. So, they, no doubt, questioned who Jesus was. They certainly accepted Him as a great prophet, but God-come-in-the-flesh? The Son of God? There hopes were waning on that.

But when Jesus revealed to them who He was on that road to Emmaus, they could not get over the sense of awe that was in their hearts. Their phrase comes to my mind many times when I have the joy of looking to Jesus and His Word. When His Word penetrates my heart with truth that only God can give, my heart, too, burns within me. There is an overwhelming power that infuses my soul and gives me the assurance that all things are exactly as He said they would be - that He truly is the Son of God, who has come so that our souls would have the privilege of joining Him in paradise one day.

Beloved, could it be that you are one who knows much about Jesus and all that He did while on earth, yet you do not fully feel the burning joy of His Spirit in you? Is it possible that you have come to know the facts about Him and even learned and memorized His Holy Word, yet do not know Him as your God? Is it even thinkable that you could be in His presence every time the church meets to worship Him, but your heart is far from Him?

I pray that none of those things is true. I pray that you, too, feel the power of Him working in you and through you because you have had your spiritual eyes opened, and you have embraced Him and His Word. If that is true, there is no doubt you recognize Jesus when you see His Spirit working. If not, don’t delay, perhaps Jesus is walking with you now on whatever road you are on. Open your eyes and trust Him as God. You will never regret it, and you will have that same sense of awe as the men at Emmaus.