

## THE UNSPEAKABLE JOY OF GOD'S PRESENCE

*"And they said to one another, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" - Luke 24:32.*

A "burning heart" is different from a heartburn! Rather than a digestive condition, the first describes the fullness of emotion following an impactful event. This was the choice of words used by two of Jesus's disciples after they realized that they had Walked and Talked with the Savior on the road to Emmaus. He had joined them on the journey, as a Divine Stranger, listening to their sorrowful musings regarding His suffering and death, and rumors of His resurrection.

*"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." – Luke 24:27.*

There was something extraordinary about this Divine Stranger's presentation! He reached right into their hearts with the Scriptures, connecting the dots of God's salvation plan. His intent was to move them from sorrow to celebration! Undoubtedly, His Words conveyed sight and sound, impressing on their minds, on a three-hour walk, the wonderful works of God and their fulfillment in Christ!

Just as these two disciples, we also can experience the Joy of God's Presence by delving deeply into His Word, the Volume of Sacred Law, as in Psalm 29:3 –onward:

*"The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders;  
The Lord is over many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty."*

Any believer willing to spend time in earnest study of God's Word will be rewarded with clarity of purpose, the courage to face difficult times, and superior power of discernment, the gifts of God. Their eyes were finally opened when, at supper, *"He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them."* –Luke 24:30. Lights on! Hallelujah! They were face-to-face with Christ Himself! They not only heard Him, they SAW Him! In the presence of the Lord there is joy unspeakable!

How do we see Him today? – Through every act of kindness to others, walking in their shoes. I see Him in the faces and actions of nurses and doctors, first responders and donors of every service designed to assist in this pandemic. How do we hear Him today? By the many messages to and from brothers, sisters, friends and family, separated, yet united in spirit. May the Almighty bless us all with burning hearts towards Him and love for each other.

**CHORUS:**       *"And He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, - none other has ever known."*

**PRAYER:**       Adorable Jehovah, Thou Who art First and Last, Alpha and Omega, receive our thanks and praise for the gift of Your presence in our lives. May we strive to grow in grace from day to day, through the diligent study of Your Word. In so doing, may we come face-to-face with the Living Christ, our Savior and Lord. Protect and strengthen, O God, all personnel dealing with the current health crisis, we pray in His Name, Amen.