

Luke 24:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Analysis

The disciples reflect: 'Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?' (οὐχὶ ἡ καρδία ἡμῶν καιομένη ἦν ἐν ἡμῖν, ὡς ἐλάλει ἡμῖν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ, καὶ ὡς διήνοιγεν ἡμῖν τὰς γραφάς;). The imperfect 'kaiomenē ēn' (καιομένη ἦν, was burning) describes continuous internal burning during Jesus' teaching. This 'heart burn' (not indigestion but spiritual passion) resulted from Scripture explanation (διήνοιγεν, was opening). The response illustrates how God's Word, properly understood, ignites spiritual affections. The connection between Scripture exposition and heart transformation demonstrates the inseparability of truth and experience in genuine Christianity.

Historical Context

This retrospective recognition shows how resurrection faith developed—initial confusion and disappointment (vv.17-21) gave way to understanding through Scripture teaching, culminating in recognition and joy. The disciples' immediate return to Jerusalem (v.33, seven miles) despite approaching night demonstrates the urgency resurrection faith produces. Their testimony joined others' (v.34, 'The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon'), building the collective witness that became early Christian preaching. The burning heart experience became paradigmatic for how Scripture reading should affect believers.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When has Scripture reading or teaching made your heart burn with spiritual passion and conviction?
2. How does the connection between biblical understanding and spiritual affections challenge both cold intellectualism and anti-intellectual emotionalism?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπον πρὸς ἄλληλους Οὐχὶ ἡ καρδία ἡμῶν
And they said one to another G240 not G3588 heart G2257
G2532 G2036 G4314 G3780 G2588 G2257

καιομένη ἦν ἐν ἡμῖν ὡς ἐλάλει ἡμῖν ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ
burn Did by to us while he talked to us by the way
G2545 G2258 G1722 G2254 G5613 G2980 G2254 G1722 G3598 G3588

καὶ ὡς διήνοιγεν ἡμῖν τὰς γραφάς
And while he opened to us the scriptures
G2532 G5613 G1272 G2254 G3588 G1124

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:45 (Word): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Hebrews 4:12 (Word): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Jeremiah 23:29 (Word): Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Psalms 39:3 (Parallel theme): My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue,

Jeremiah 20:9 (Word): Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Proverbs 27:17 (Parallel theme): Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Jeremiah 15:16 (Word): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

John 6:63 (Word): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Acts 28:23 (Word): And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

Isaiah 50:4 (Word): The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.