

# The Word Before Experience

by Anton Bosch

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*This sermon from Luke chapter 24 focuses on the account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It emphasizes the importance of building faith on the Word of God rather than seeking experiences or feelings. Jesus reveals himself through the Scriptures, showing that the Old Testament points to him as the fulfillment of prophecy. The disciples' eyes are opened when Jesus breaks bread with them, highlighting the significance of recognizing Jesus through the Word.*

**Duration:** 50:04

**Scripture:** Luke 24:27, John 5:39, Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16, Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:1, Proverbs 30:5, John 20:29

**Topics:** "Faith in the Word", "Recognizing Jesus in Scripture"

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## Description

This sermon from Luke chapter 24 focuses on the account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It emphasizes the importance of building faith on the Word of God rather than seeking experiences or feelings. Jesus reveals himself through the Scriptures, showing that the Old Testament points to him as the fulfillment of prophecy. The disciples' eyes are opened when Jesus breaks bread with them, highlighting the significance of recognizing Jesus through the Word.

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## Transcript

Luke chapter 24 and we have a long reading and a very long passage this morning. I'm obviously not going to speak on every verse but at the same time we have to deal with this whole passage in one go because there's a mainly a main message, a single message that comes out of all of these verses and so we do need to deal with it all in one. So the reading is from Luke chapter 24 from verse 13 through 35.

Luke chapter 24 verses 13 through 35 and it's the account of the two on the road to Emmaus. So Luke chapter 24 verse 13. Now behold two of them were travelling that same day to a village called Emmaus which was seven miles from Jerusalem and they talked together of all these things which had happened and so it was while they conversed and reasoned that Jesus himself drew near and went with them but their eyes were restrained so that they did not know him and he said to them what kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to him are you the only stranger in Jerusalem and have you not known the things which have happened there in these days and he said to them what things and so they said to him the things concerning Jesus of Nazareth who was a prophet mighty indeed and word before God and all the people and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death and crucified him

but we were hoping that it was he who was going to redeem Israel indeed besides all this today is the third day since these things happened yes and certain women of our company who arrived at the tomb early astonished us when they did not find his body they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said he was alive and certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said but they him they did not see then he said to them Oh foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory and beginning at Moses and all the prophets he expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself then they drew near to the village where they were going and he indicated that he would have gone further but they constrained him saying abide with us before it is toward evening and the day is far spent and he went in to stay with him now it came to pass as he sat at the table with them then he took bread blessed and broke it and gave it to them then their eyes were opened and they knew him and he vanished from their sight and they said to one another did not our heart burn within it within us while he talked with us on the road and while he opened the scriptures to us and so they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together saying the Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon and they told about the things that had happened on the road and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread so we know clearly this is the third day this is the first day of the week the Sunday this is the new beginning for Israel they counted from Sunday through Saturday and Sunday was the beginning of the week and Jesus rises and he initiates a new beginning for his Saints and for the church and so it says two of them were traveling that same day that was the day of the resurrection that we've just read off in the previous section and they were traveling to a village called Emmaus which was seven miles from Jerusalem now I know if you have a different translation it may give you the the distance in furlongs or in stadia but it's all translated to approximately seven miles we don't know where Emmaus is today it was obviously a very small obscure village which doesn't exist anymore and so they're there on the road and they talked together of all these things which had happened and it it was that they conversed and reasoned that Jesus himself drew near and went with them now Jesus obviously is now glorified he is resurrected and glorified and he is clearly able to translate himself from one place to the other without having to physically walk from one place to the other and he is now omniscient has restored the full capacity of God he knows everything and so he instantly knew about these two who were going on the road to Emmaus he also recognized that they were troubled and sometimes when we look at God's omniscience it tends to be a very cold scientific thing that God somehow understands and knows everything there is nothing that that that goes on in the face of this world or anywhere in the universe that he he doesn't know and and not only does he know something about it but he knows the intimate exact details of every situation he knows every detail about us he knows what goes on in our hearts while those who are pastors and shepherds are able to understand some of what goes on in people's lives and no one knows exactly what goes on in your heart except the Lord Jesus but he knows and he knew the the the heartache he knew the frustration the disappointment that these two were dealing with and in his omniscience he he he draws alongside them remember we've seen in the book of Hebrews that he is touched with the feelings of our infirmities he is touched by our weaknesses by our issues by our struggles and so he is not far from us he draws near to us and so wherever he was physically manifest at that stage and remember that's hard now to apply to him human qualities even though he still has a human body but a resurrected and glorified body he is he is not limited by time and space anymore but he he sees these two and he draws near to them and that speaks of God's wonderful grace and mercy that he draws near to those who are of a broken heart he draws near to those who are struggling the problem is that we don't always recognize him and I think that in this are some important lessons for us this morning because sometimes we say well God's far away God is not

interested God is not involved as that song that Bette Midler and Cliff Richard made very famous God is watching us from a distance no he is not watching us from a distance he is intimately involved in our suffering he's intimately involved in our heartache and our disappointments he is intimately involved in the issues that we deal with and he draws alongside he is that friend that sticks closer than a brother and so Jesus draws near to them it's interesting that as we've been looking at the book of Hebrews that we find that word and we're going to come back to that word in Hebrews where it says let us draw near we need to draw near to him but he draws near to us and so their eyes were restrained so they did they did not know him I'm going to come back to this verse because this is really a very important part of understanding the message of this passage and so they they see him but they just recognize him as another man I tried to imagine how this would have happened I would imagine that he somehow just appeared behind them in a moment and and thinking of when I'm walking out on the trails and there's someone else who's behind me and walking faster than me I'm aware of them and they eventually catch up and may overtake and so but somehow obviously this is all supernatural miraculous he appears there behind them and then he catches up with them and he starts walking with them but they don't recognize him as Jesus they don't recognize him as anything other than just another man who's on his journey to to Emmaus or wherever he he was making out that he was going verse 17 and he said to them what kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad so he noticed their sadness he noticed their frustration he knew exactly what they were talking about and and I thank God that while we have the privilege of prayer and prayer is absolutely important that we express our needs and our desires and our hearts before God at the same time he knows even before we ask even before we pray he knows our conversation he knows the conversations between the spouses he knows the conversations between between us and and and unbelievers he knows the conversations that go on in our own hearts and minds don't tell me you don't talk to yourself he even knows those conversations he knows but he's he's asking them what are you talking about what conversation is that you're so sad about so so clearly he wants us to express our our issues to him even though he knows and and I think it's important because sometimes we say well you know if he knows everything then why do we need to pray well we need to pray because he wants to hear it from our own lips he wants us to make that confession and what is the confession the confession is Lord we don't understand we need help we need you to open our eyes we need you to explain things to us we need you to answer our prayers and so they then it says in verse 18 then one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to him are you the only stranger in Jerusalem and have you not known the things which has happened there in these days I've never heard it here but in South Africa we we have a saying particularly in Afrikaans and the saying is are you a stranger in Jerusalem the the thing simply means where have you been you under a rock don't you know what's going on and so that's a question to him and obviously it's clear that what was happening what had happened was was not obscure as we've said all along Jesus this is a very public thing there are thousands of thousands of people in Jerusalem there are thousands of people at the trial many many had come to see the crucifixion and according to these guys nobody should not have known what was going on now notice that one of them was Cleopas now most times when I hear people speak about this passage they assume that these are two men I'm not sure that they are two men it doesn't tell us who they who the other one was the one is Cleopas and that is a male name now we find the name in John chapter 19 verse 25 it's spelt a little differently but it's the same name there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother and notice his mother's sister her name is Mary and she is the wife of Clopas or Cleopas and Mary so Cleopas is then Jesus's uncle by marriage so so his mother his mother's sister we don't know her name and sorry her name is Mary and the wife of the wife of Cleopas or Clopas so it's possible that the two who are traveling on the road to Emmaus may have been Clopas and his wife there's nothing in the text that says that they were two they were two men if they were they were people

who were very closely related to Jesus who knew him very well and certainly she was there at the cross one of the few who stood right at the cross when Jesus was being crucified and so they said are you the only stranger in Jerusalem and have you not known the things which happened there in these days and then verse 19 and he said to them what things so Jesus is obviously playing dumb and and sometimes it's necessary for him to do that because it's necessary for us to confess our own hearts the problem is that we we have issues we have problems things that we don't understand we have emotional problems intellectual problems spiritual problems and we bear them but we don't want to express them and Jesus feels the need for them to make a confession he knows what's in their hearts but he wants them to express them and folk we need to learn to express our needs before God husbands and wives need to come learn to confess their needs to one another in order to have and build a good relationship but in our relationship with the father we need to express our needs and so he says what things and they said to him the things concerning Jesus of Nazareth who was a prophet so they recognized that he's a prophet and he's mighty indeed and word before God and all the people and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death and crucified him now obviously that just looks like a statement of what had happened but I want you to notice something he says how the chief priests and our rulers so that he's speaking as a Jew delivered him to be condemned to death to the Romans and crucified him so who crucified him according to him the chief priests and our rulers crucified him so he is recognizing their guilt in the process now remember we we want to be careful just by the way we want to be careful on this point because there are there are Christians who are anti-semitic who hate Jews because they say well the Jews crucified Jesus we cannot go there while yes Peter on the day of Pentecost remember it says that that you took him with wicked hands and crucified him so so Peter also puts the blame squarely on the on the shoulders of Israel at the same time this is not a blame game this is Jesus didn't die because Israel rejected him or because Israel handed him to the Romans it Jesus died for our sins it was our sins that took him to the cross if anyone is guilty then each one of us is guilty of Jesus's death because it is because of our sins that he died so to try and say well it's the Jews fault or it's the Romans fault no it's not their fault it's my fault if anyone is guilty I am guilty because my sins necessitated him to die on that cross of Calvary so so while they take responsibility on behalf of the nation at the same time we cannot look at Israel and say well you know you are the Christ killers that's a that's a word that is popular in some in some circles no the Israel yes they crucified the Messiah they but the Romans were also part of that whole deal as we've seen and you can't really shift the blame because at the end of the day Pilate makes the decision Pilate had life and death in his hands Pilate could have released Jesus he could have put him in protective custody as they later did with Paul but Pilate hands him over to be crucified so they are both there are both guilty anyway so there's the there's the story but we were hoping that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel indeed beside all this today is the third day since these things happened I've spoken many times about the fact that they were looking to Jesus as a political Messiah and and here it is again when they say we were hoping he was going to redeem Israel they're not meaning this in a spiritual sense but they're meaning it in a political sense that he was going to save Israel from the Romans this is a huge problem they had and it is it is becoming an increasing problem here in America I I listened to a famous preacher this morning very briefly and and what he does is and and this is the thing and I'll probably do a study on this in the in the next few months one of the errors we have in Christianity is what we call replacement theology replacement theology says that God is done with Israel all of the promises of the Old Testament are now given to the church we don't believe that replacement theology is right because that makes God a liar God made irrevocable covenants with Abraham with Isaac and with Jacob confirmed it with Moses and with Israel at Mount Sinai so if God has finally and totally rejected Israel then God has broken his covenants it's as simple as that so God is dealing with a church today he will come

back to Israel so that is the classical problem but we have a new form of replacement theology which is risen in these last couple of years and it does not replace Israel with a church but replaces Israel with America so that all of the promises and this is a famous preacher well known as an expositor taking all Old Testament scriptures that God applies to Israel and he now applies them to America but we cannot do that it's about the church right now and it will be about Israel at a later stage everything else is secondary and so we have to be careful that we don't get into the same mindset that these people got into where it was about their nationalism not about their salvation now these are good guys these two walking on this on the road but they were caught up by what was commonly accepted and commonly being believed at the time and they couldn't see the reality that Jesus was not a political Savior but he was a spiritual Savior and yes obviously he will come as a political king at a later stage at the end in times so we believe that he was going to redeem Israel and indeed beside all this today is the third day since these things happened now you would think that when they spoke those words this is the third day the penny would have dropped because many times Jesus had said I will rise on the third day and so their own confession is this is the third day and yet they don't believe and yes certain women of our company which we saw last week who arrived at the tomb early astonished us and when they did not find his body they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive and certain of those who were with us that was those who were in the upper room remember Peter and John went to the tomb and found it just as the woman had said but him they did not see now notice that there's one thing missing in their description of what happened and that is the word he is risen the angel said he is risen but for them there was no resurrection all that happened was Jesus was missing the body was not there they didn't understand anything beyond that and the reason I say that is Jesus's response and Jesus then said to them Oh foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken so clearly they did not believe the resurrection otherwise Jesus would not have rebuked him Jesus is not unfair he's not going to rebuke someone for something that they're not guilty of but they clearly don't believe now remember I said last week that there is a pattern in these three appearances Jesus well these three accounts of the resurrection the the one at the tomb and the angels speaking to the woman the road to Emmaus and then the upper room Luke selects those three of the many appearances of Jesus and in each one of those three there is a pattern and the pattern begins with unbelief a statement of unbelief on the part of the observers the response is a rebuke in the first case a rebuke from the angels here it's a rebuke from Jesus Oh foolish ones you're so stupid and then in the upper room the same thing happens Jesus rebukes them for their unbelief and then a revelation of the truth so the same pattern happens in all three and obviously Luke is making a very important point and so he's noticed that he does not say what the angel said the angel said don't you remember what he told you he said he was going to rise but here Jesus is saying don't you believe the prophets obviously referring to the Old Testament and so foolish ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken so they believed some of what the prophets said but they didn't believe the parts about the resurrection and they didn't believe the parts about Jesus being despised and rejected Isaiah 53 so they believed some parts but not all and isn't that the problem today I think that probably all of us believe in some maybe even most of the Bible but do we believe all of it and that's the problem because the bits that we don't believe may just be the most important parts the most difficult parts to understand from a human point of view how do you understand the resurrection how do you understand that the Messiah the deliverer of Israel the Savior is going to die on the cross and yet we have to believe the things that even look like they're impossible that that look like they just don't make sense and and you say well you know does that mean that we we have to park our brains at the door when we when we come to church or when we open no I've always advocated that we must have an intellectual understanding it supported by a spiritual understanding and I'm going to come back to that idea

in a moment we must understand but there are certain things we have to accept by faith there are certain things that we cannot prove and those are the things that sometimes we reject and we say well how could God have created everything in six literal days which is becoming increasingly difficult to believe as we are being bombarded with all sorts of pseudo evidence against a literal six-day creation and then obviously the problem with that is that if you reject that then you have to reject the resurrection because if one part is not true then the rest cannot be true so either we believe the whole of the Word of God or we don't believe at all and so you're slow of heart you're slow of heart notice he's they there he's saying can't you get it verse 26 ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory so it's a reciprocal question he's not asking them to answer because he knows they can't answer they don't know the answer but if they had understood the scriptures if they'd understood the Old Testament they would have understood that he had to suffer and then enter into his glory speaking about his resurrection and his glorification verse 27 and beginning at Moses the first five books and all the prophets including the Psalms he expounded to them in the scriptures the things concerning himself this is this is the heart of this passage I know that we get caught up in the him being made known to them as they broke bread we get caught up in other aspects but this really is the heart of the passage he explains to them from the scriptures I'm going to come back to this again in a moment but notice he expounds to them in all the scriptures in other words that the Old Testament from Genesis through Malachi their order is like a little bit different at the end all of them reveal Jesus and don't just reveal him as the Messiah but reveal him as the sacrifice Jesus is revealed in the tabernacle Jesus is revealed in the sacrifices that are made day after day after day Jesus is revealed right through the Old Testament and Jesus goes through the scriptures now obviously in the in the walk and I don't know how long it took couple hours he couldn't have gone into every single scripture but he goes through all of the Old Testament all of the books and shows how that each one of them reveals Jesus and of course in John chapter 5 Jesus himself said and remember if they were one of his followers they may have heard these words and yet didn't pay attention he says you search the scriptures he's speaking to the Pharisees you search the scriptures meaning the Old Testament remember they didn't have the New Testament you search the scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life and these are they which testify of me so if they had been there they would have got this or maybe not but the statement is very very clear but we have to be careful how we deal with the Old Testament as I said earlier people are using the Old Testament to come up with all sorts of harebrained ideas and all sorts of doctrines and theologies that are not scriptural the Old Testament primarily teaches us about Jesus teaches us about Jesus and when we start getting into the Old Testament and we start seeing pictures about America and about Russia and about this and that and Ukraine and whatever else we've missed the point the point of the Old Testament is not about anything other than Jesus Christ the same with the New Testament and so Jesus accusation to the Pharisees is you you you search the scriptures they knew the scriptures they could they could recite many of them could those scriptures verse by verse from the beginning right through to the end not only did they know them but they debated them they discussed them they argued about the meaning and the interpretation of the various scriptures but he says but you are not willing to come to me that you may have life so he says you search the Old Testament because you think that the scriptures will give you life but he says no it's the scriptures don't give you life I am the life and if you don't find me you're not going to find life many people are trying to find life in the Bible in the New Testament but they don't want to find it in Jesus Jesus is the only one who can give life and I'm rushing along because we have quite a bit of ground to cover this morning then they drew near to the village where they were going and indicated that he would have gone further so he's again looking for some kind of response I think this is another important step in this whole passage sometimes it looks like the Lord wants to do something different but what was he doing he was testing them he was testing them

he was seeing whether they were serious about their relationship with the Lord Jesus they didn't know this was Jesus but he was declaring Jesus to them here's a man who opens the scriptures and under and explains to them Jesus now they're gonna just let him go well thank God they didn't they said no no no you need to you need to stay here and folks sometimes we let go of Jesus too easily we say well thank you Lord that was great if I come particularly concerned that we we come to church and we hear 45 minutes of exposition and that's it we go home and we do whatever we do but they said no we we we want to hear more they say well we're concerned that you're going to go on you know on the road and it's it's dangerous well in fact it wasn't so dangerous that they were not going to turn around and go back all that way again they just wanted more time with him and that was the right decision can you imagine what would have happened if they said okay bye see ya they would have had a wonderful revelation of the Old Testament but they would never have seen him face-to-face and folk I think sometimes we give up on our prayer life too easily too quickly sometimes we move on to whatever else we're busy with and I can imagine they you know they they had things to do they were going to have a meal and they were going to see their friends or their family whoever they were traveling to go and see and there was some excitement about seeing friends again and having a meal and resting and and all of these kinds of things but they recognized there was something more important than just having a meal with their friends or family Jesus was more important sadly I think many times we fail the test and this was a test Jesus was testing them and many times we fail the test because other things are take priority over Jesus other things take priority over his word and we flip from one thing to the other instead of spending time and saying Lord no don't go on stay here with me in John's gospel Jesus says it this way he says abide in me and I in you remain and they say no Jesus don't or they didn't know his name but don't go stay here with us and so he indicated that he would have gone further but they constrained him saying abide with us for it is toward evening interesting those words abide with us not just come and have a meal no stay with us remain with us for it is towards evening and the days far spent and he went in to stay with them Jesus is a very willing guest if we invite him in he will come in but if we shut the door he will go and at this point it's up to you you see Jesus had done all the groundwork he had appeared he had arrived again we understand they didn't know who he was but he was there he spent time he gave them the scriptures he gave them everything and then he said now you choose now he doesn't say that in those words but that's what it's well down to you choose you want more of me or you want to want me to go and they said no Lord stay and folk he has done everything to build that relationship with us he's died for us at the cross he's given us his word but now it's up to you and up to me to say Lord no we don't want you to go we want you to stay we want this relationship to continue and he went in to stay with them now it came to pass as he sat at the table with them that he took bread blessed and broke it and he gave it to them now this is a difficult verse because there are many who say that they had communion because the passage near the end I think third last verse says that he was known to them in the breaking of the bread and normally when we speak about breaking the breaking of the bread we mean communion the problem here is that he only took bread he didn't take what take wine and so the important elements of a communion and I don't like don't want to use the word service because remember for them it wasn't a service they would have communion as part of their meal at the end of the meal that just like Jesus did it at the Last Supper would take bread and they would take wine and they would remember the Lord now I don't think that this is what he is doing he's simply the guest of honor and it's up to him to break the bread and so as he breaks the bread he sorry he blessed it and he broke it and he gave it to them but maybe they were the ones who were part of the five thousand where Jesus did exactly the same thing he broke the bread blessed it and he said to the disciples now go and give to the people maybe they're beginning to remember things I don't know says and then their eyes were opened and they knew him and he vanished from their sight suddenly the Holy

Spirit opens their eyes some speculate that as he broke bread they could see the marks in his hands that may be possible but clearly what we see in verse 16 which I think we're going to come back to in a moment but what we saw in verse 16 is that God had restrained their eyes so that they could not recognize him so God now opens their eyes and they see him they recognize who Jesus is and folk here is the important lesson let me deal with the next verse and then get there and they said to one another did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us on the road and while he opened the scriptures to us notice what they said we must pay attention to the details they don't say did our hearts not burn within us as he broke the bread and we recognized him that wasn't what excited them of course there was a great thing but what is it that excited them when he opened the scriptures when he opened the scriptures and so if we go back to verse 16 then why were their eyes restrained so that they did not know him and why does he open their eyes at the meal for one important lesson and this is the point of the passage as far as I'm concerned he did not want them to build their relationship on him on their experiencing him seeing him he wanted them to build their faith on the Word of God and so he opens the word and reveals himself from the word and that excites them you see here's the problem we say no we don't want the word we want to see Jesus this is the emphasis in most modern churches today experience I once did a study and typed in experiencing Jesus in Google and came up with thousands and thousands of hits it's all about experiencing Jesus no if you don't get him in the opening of the word you will not experience him you cannot build your relationship on an experience you must build your experience on the teachings of the Word of God yes experiencing him is important it's important that they saw him and they recognized who he was but if that was all they had their faith would be on shifting sand because our experiences are fleeting can you think back on the most wonderful experience you had in your life whatever that may have been can you remember exactly how it all was no we just know yeah there was that time and it was it was great whatever it was but the Word of God endures forever our emotions change our feelings change time moves on but the Word of God endures and if we're going to build our relationship on saying well I saw Jesus this is what many I had a vision of Jesus but guaranteed the time will come you say well was that real or was I just imagining things was it just a dream you cannot build your faith on your experience no matter how real that experience may be you have to build it on the Word of God and for this reason God does not give them an experience Jesus does not give them an experience until they understood the Scriptures today we wanted the other way around we want to experience Jesus and we say well then maybe I'll start studying the Scriptures well the problem is you don't because you get caught up in the experience and you now go off on a tangent oh I had a vision oh I saw Jesus I had a near-death experience whatever it whatever it was I you know I came to church and the worship was so great and I had goosebumps now your whole face is on that but tomorrow morning when you wake up and you don't feel so great it's all gone out the window but if you build your faith on the Word it stands it's firm it's secure and I think it's important for us to get the point here that yes Jesus could have appeared to them and he could have said Tara and shown him then his hands and they would have understood here is Jesus he is resurrected yes of course he could have done that but he chooses to reveal himself in the Scriptures first and then to reveal himself in the breaking of bread and so they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem seven seven miles can take you a good three hours to walk I reckon they arrived before dark it seems but now they had another at least three hours back I suspect that they didn't they didn't stroll back I suspect that they ran back because they had seen Jesus they had met with Jesus and so they rose up that very hour that they and they returned to Jerusalem and found the 11 and those who were with them gathered together they knew where to go went to the upper room and there's the 11 plus the others maybe 120 saying the Lord is risen indeed and he has appeared to Simon so as they get there they say Jesus has appeared to Simon so remember there was a separate experience that Simon had as he meets Jesus

and they told about the things that had happened on the road and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread father we thank you for your word we thank you Lord that your word reveals Jesus not only reveals his existence as an historical man but reveals all about him and particularly that he is the source of life as he said I am the way the truth and the life and Lord that he is the only one who can give us eternal life Lord we so many times want some kind of experience some kind of feeling that would tell us that you are real and that you are alive but Lord we understand that you choose not to give us feelings but you choose to give us something far more substantial something far more secure you give us your word and Lord I pray that you'd forgive us for chasing after experiences and feelings and emotions and hype and not being satisfied with your word Lord I pray that that this reality that as their hearts burned within them as they as the scriptures were open to them Lord that this may become real for us thank you Lord for the times that I'm able to open your word and and my heart burns within me as you as you by your spirit reveal the truth of your word but Lord I pray that that may be my experience every day and I pray Lord that that may be the experience of each one of us that as in our studying of the scriptures it may not just be a dead reading of history or reading of some kind of philosophy but Lord that as Jesus opened the scriptures to them that the Holy Spirit would open the scriptures to us and Lord that our hearts would burn with excitement because of the truths of your word Lord we we don't want your word to replace Jesus and Lord that can easily become a reality but Lord we want your scriptures to reveal Jesus and to lead us to him lead us to knowing him as they knew him in the breaking of the bread and so Lord I just pray that you would create within us a new excitement for your word a new excitement for seeing Jesus in your word forgive us Lord for looking for some kind of experience whether it be in the world or whether it be in the church but Lord that we may seek Jesus and that we may seek his word and Lord that we may be thrilled and excited and Lord I thank you for your grace in my life that I've that your word remains ever true and ever precious and ever exciting and Lord week by week as I open your word day by day I thank you that my heart can burn and does burn as I see Jesus see things that I haven't seen before and so Lord I pray that you'd help us to get the priorities right Lord that we may see Jesus not in prophetic events that we may see him not in certain the miracles or in the signs or wonders that we may see him not in our experiences or in goosebumps but that we may see him in his word and Lord that it may become so real that our hearts would burn within us I ask that this may be a real Lord not just words but reality in every one of our lives I ask this in Jesus name I pray that you'd go with us now keep us and protect us bring us together again safely in the week in Jesus name I pray amen

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