

## **Day 1: God's Presence in Unexpected Places**

**Reading:** Luke 24:13-24

**Devotional:** The disciples walked away from Jerusalem with broken hearts, unable to see that Jesus was right beside them. How often do we miss God's presence because we're looking in the wrong places? Like Corrie Ten Boom thanking God for fleas in a concentration camp, sometimes our greatest burdens become our most profound blessings. God doesn't wait for us to recognize Him before He shows up—He's already there, walking through our confusion and grief. Today, consider the difficult circumstances in your life. What if God is present in those very places, working in ways you cannot yet see? Ask Him to open your eyes to His activity in the mundane, the painful, and the perplexing seasons of life.

## **Day 2: When Expectations Meet Reality**

**Reading:** Luke 24:25-27; Isaiah 53:1-12

**Devotional:** "We had hoped He was the one to redeem Israel." These words reveal hearts operating with misunderstood expectations. The disciples expected a political deliverer; God sent a suffering servant. Jesus gently corrects them: "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things?" Our misunderstandings about who Jesus is and how He works will always limit our ability to embrace Him fully. Perhaps your prayers haven't been answered as expected. Maybe God's plan looks nothing like yours. This isn't abandonment—it's redirection. Jesus meets us in our confusion, not with condemnation, but with patient teaching. Spend time today releasing your expectations to God, asking Him to replace them with understanding rooted in Scripture rather than preference.

## **Day 3: The Burning Heart**

**Reading:** Luke 24:28-35; Psalm 119:105-112

**Devotional:** "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road?" The disciples recognized something supernatural was happening even before they saw Jesus clearly. God's Word has power to ignite our hearts, creating an inner witness that transcends intellectual understanding. This burning isn't mere emotion—it's the Holy Spirit confirming truth and calling us to mission. The resurrection doesn't create spectators; it creates witnesses with hearts on fire. When was the last time Scripture made your heart burn? When did God's truth move you from passive consumption to active pursuit? Pray today for that burning heart—not for emotional experience alone, but for passionate conviction that compels you to share what you've discovered about the risen Christ.

## **Day 4: Divine Concealment for Greater Revelation**

**Reading:** Luke 24:15-16; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

**Devotional:** God intentionally kept the disciples from recognizing Jesus immediately. Why? Because experience without understanding creates shallow faith. Jesus wanted them to grasp the biblical framework before emotion overwhelmed reason. Sometimes God conceals Himself not as punishment, but as preparation. He's building understanding that will sustain you when feelings fade. In your spiritual journey, there may be seasons when God feels distant or hidden. These aren't signs of His absence but opportunities for deeper learning. He's teaching you to trust His Word over your feelings, His promises over your circumstances. Today, if you're in a season of divine concealment, lean into Scripture. Let God teach you who He is before demanding immediate experience of His presence.

## **Day 5: From Recognition to Mission**

**Reading:** Luke 24:33-35; Matthew 28:18-20

**Devotional:** The moment the disciples recognized Jesus, they couldn't stay still. They rose "that same hour" and returned to Jerusalem to share the news. Authentic encounter with the risen Christ always leads to movement—from death to life, from despair to hope, from isolation to community, from silence to witness. The resurrection creates pursuers, not consumers. What has God revealed to you through this week? Has He opened your eyes to see His presence in your fleas, your disappointments, your ordinary moments? Now comes the response: What will you do with this awareness? Who needs to hear that Jesus walks with people long before they recognize Him? Let your burning heart move you to mission today. Share your story of how God has been present even when you couldn't see Him clearly.

*As you complete this devotional journey, remember: Jesus doesn't need your awareness to be present, but you need awareness to fully experience His presence. Keep seeking Him in Scripture, in community, and in the everyday moments of life.*