

You Were Walking Away, Yet He Was Within You

Dear brothers and sisters,

There is a restlessness within the human heart that no distraction can be silent. You may fill your days with activity. You may occupy your mind with endless concerns. You may even surround yourself with good things. And still—the heart remains unsettled. Why? Because you were not made for passing things. You were made for God. And until you return to Him, something within you remains divided.

The mystery is this: Often, when you think you are searching for God—it is God who is searching for you. This is revealed in the Road to Emmaus. The disciples walk away, convinced they understand their situation: hope has failed, the story is over, the future is closed. They are certain. And yet—they are wrong. Because Truth Himself is walking beside them.

This is the drama of the human soul: We can be close to God externally, and far from Him internally. We can speak of Him, and yet not know Him. We can even seek Him—while resisting the way He chooses to reveal Himself. Christ speaks to them: “Slow of heart...” Not because they lack intelligence—but because their hearts are divided.

And here we must be honest: The greatest obstacle to God is not ignorance—but resistance. We do not always reject God directly. We delay. We postpone. We remain half-open. We want consolation—but not conversion. We want peace—but not surrender. Yet Christ does not abandon them. He enters their confusion. He walks within their misunderstanding. He patiently reorders their vision through the Scriptures.

And then—it happens: Their hearts begin to burn. This is not comfort. This is grace at work. Grace wounds before it heals. Grace exposes before it restores. Grace unsettles before it gives peace. Because it is not content to leave you as you are. And finally—the breaking of the bread. In that moment, they recognize Him. But notice: They do not possess Him. They recognize—and He vanishes. Why? Because Christ is not meant to be controlled. He is to be received... and followed.

Dear brothers and sisters, you may think you are far from God. But the deeper truth is this: God is closer to you than you are to yourself. Even in your confusion. Even in your resistance. Even in your wandering. He is there. Not waiting at a distance—but walking within your very life. So why do we not recognize Him? Because we are distracted. Because we are divided. Because we are unwilling to change. Recognition requires surrender.

This is the turning point: You must decide—Will you remain divided? Or will you return? Not partially. Not temporarily. But wholly. Do not be afraid of this surrender. Because what you lose is illusion—and what you receive is life. The disciples rose immediately. No delay. No hesitation. Because once the heart recognizes Truth, it cannot remain where it was.

May your restlessness lead you to Him. May your questions open you to truth. May your heart burn with His presence. And may you discover, even now: You were walking away—but He was already within your journey.

In Christ,

Fr. Vilaire Philius/Pastor