

Allan Lewis Wants More Heart Burn. Really, Allan?  
Published in Terre Haute Tribune Star – October 21, 2017

Heart burn. We don't like it. We complain when we get it. We grab our guts and exclaim like some decades old advertisement for Alka-Seltzer, "I can't believe I ate the whole thing." Then we reach for the antacids and hope that they do their magic for us. "Plop, plop. Oh what a relief it is." (Those of us who remember that commercial—I dare you to stop singing that jingle!)

There are certain foods that trigger heart burn. Garlic, onions, chocolate, tomatoes, spicy foods. I have a friend who knows salsa will give her heart burn. But she loves salsa on just about everything—sandwiches, baked potatoes, rice, soups. She carries antacid tablets with her wherever she goes because she refuses to stop eating her heart burn inducing salsa.

And I have genuine sympathy for those who experience caffeine heart burn. I say this with a cup of coffee in my hand and a diet coke chilling in the refrigerator. I'm so sorry for you, my caffeine deprived friends.

A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to hear a grace-filled message from a friend, Allan Lewis. Allan and his family live near Spencer, Indiana, where Allan serves as minister, so I don't get to hear him speak very often. But when I do, I know Allan is going to speak some words of wisdom and encouragement. He didn't disappoint this time, either.

I was sitting in the very back of the room, so it was interesting to watch the reaction of his audience to his message. There were heads nodding in agreement and more than a few were taking notes. But just as he was starting his conclusion, Allan made a statement that literally made everyone stop. Some held their breath, waiting to see if he was trying to be serious or trying to be funny. Literally, shoulders squared and spines stiffened waiting on Allan to explain. All he did was repeat what he had just said.

"I WANT SOME HEART BURN!" What? Really, Allan?

Luke 24:13-35 tells what happened when Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. They didn't recognize Him, but talked with Him about what they had seen and heard concerning Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Jesus said this all was a fulfillment of scripture, and explained how from Moses and the Prophets all scripture had pointed to Jesus. They spent hours together and finally shared a meal. Just as they finally realized who Jesus was, He disappeared. They looked at each other and said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Allan said, "I want my heart to burn within me as I walk my life's road with Jesus. I want my heart to burn as I read and study and understand the Scriptures. I want some of that holy heart burn." Well said, Allan.

I think we all need a good dose of that holy heart burn, don't you?