

Week 16  
108/257

**Transforming Daily**  
**“ . . . praising and blessing God . . . ”**  
*Luke 24:53*

Are you praising and blessing God continually? After Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected from the grave, he was seen by many people. He went to meet with His closest disciples just before His ascension, but they didn't even recognize Him. They had been fishing all night, caught nothing when Jesus divinely intervened to give them a haul of 153 fish. At that point, one of the disciples identified Him as Jesus. Afterward, all of them had breakfast on the shore.

The disciples were “bummed.” In part, they didn't fully understand all that had just happened in the recent previous days. In addition, they were embarrassed because of their own conduct, especially Peter. However, everything changed when Jesus opened their understanding fully. Revival swept over them, and they “were continually in the temple praising and blessing God.”

I repeat the opening question, “Are you praising and blessing God continually? It might be that just as it was with the early disciples your understanding isn't as fully informed as it should be. How did Jesus open the understanding of the disciples? By cutting their heads open and pouring the information in? Did He rip their chests open and inject the information into their hearts? Did Jesus speak with a miraculously loud voice and shout the information into their ears? No. Jesus imparted the written Word of God to the disciples just as He had done throughout His earthly ministry (v.44-47).

Is it possible that if we are not continually praising and blessing God that our understanding isn't fully opened? If so, how do we have our understanding opened? Do we give more money to the church? Sing a special song? Go to the foreign mission field? Chant a specific mantra? It is none of the above. The only way to have our understanding more fully opened is to hear God's Word and do it.

In this passage, Jesus refers to what we call the Old Testament or at least most of it. There are 39 books in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. Arguably, Moses wrote 5 of them, the prophets wrote more than 16 of them, and David, among others, contributed to the book of Psalms. Therefore, Jesus referred to at least 22 books out of the 39 that make up the Old Testament, in this passage of Luke's gospel, in order to fully open the early disciples understanding.

So what does that say for us when we have the remaining books of the Old Testament (39 – 22 = 17 mostly what is known as the Writings) and additionally the 27 books of the New Testament? Having all 66 books of the Bible (not to mention the indwelling of the Holy Spirit) at our disposal and free to read and preach them, there is no excuse for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian's understanding not to be fully opened, and as such, we should be continually praising and blessing God. Amen.