



Series Title: IMPACTERS - Who We Are
Week 5 (2 March 2025)

Summary:

This week's Message emphasizes the importance of moving beyond mere conversion to true transformation in the Christian life. Bruce Downes challenges listeners to not just hear messages, but to actively engage with them, apply them, and allow them to change their lives. The goal is to become like Christ, not just in belief, but in action and character. The Message stresses the need for ongoing conversion, deep personal relationships with God, and living out one's faith in community and mission.

Key Points:

- Conversion is saying a deeper yes to Jesus; transformation is becoming like Jesus.
- True transformation involves sharing in the life of God and renewing our mind.
- Engagement, action, and response are crucial for spiritual growth.
- Community and accountability are essential for deepening faith.
- Living out faith through mission and service completes the transformation process.
- Holiness and transformation are ongoing processes, not one-time events.
- We must be deliberate in our efforts to grow and impact others.

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
- 1 Peter 3:15 - "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you."

Stories:

- Bruce's experience with cancer and how it deepened his understanding of others' struggles.
- The story of living with 14 other young men for a year, focusing intensely on spiritual growth.
- Personal anecdotes about driving with his wife and learning to respond with gratitude instead of annoyance.
- Reference to Father Des, who prayed with Bruce over 50 years ago, and their recent conversation about living in God's presence.

Discussion Questions:

- How can we move beyond simply hearing messages to truly engaging with and being transformed by them in our daily lives?
- What does it mean to you personally to 'become like Jesus', and how might this process of transformation look different from mere intellectual belief?
- How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of God's presence in every aspect of our lives, not just during designated prayer times?
- In what ways might our current spiritual practices be keeping us at the level of 'conversion' without progressing to 'transformation', and how can we move forward?
- How can we balance the humility of recognizing our own sinfulness with the boldness to say 'look at me' as an example of Christ's transforming work?
- What does it mean to you to be an 'Impacter' in your specific context, and how might this calling challenge you to grow?
- How can we create and maintain accountable relationships that genuinely challenge us to grow in holiness?
- In what ways might our busy lives or current circumstances be pushing God out, and how can we intentionally bring Him back to the center?
- How can we approach spiritual growth as a lifelong process of 'ever-deepening relationship' rather than a destination to be reached?
- What might it look like to truly 'chase God' in your current season of life, and what obstacles might you need to overcome to do so?

IMPACTERS – Who We Are (Wk. 5) SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer: Begin with a prayer asking God to open hearts and minds to His transforming power.

Key Takeaways:

1. Transformation goes beyond conversion, moving from just believing to becoming like Christ.
2. Our purpose is to come into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus.
3. Transformation is about sharing in the life of God and renewing our minds.
4. Becoming an Impacter requires active engagement, not passive listening.

Discussion Questions:

1. Bruce mentions that many Christians stay at the level of conversion without moving to transformation. What do you think is the difference between these two stages?
2. Reflect on this quote: "Conversion is saying a deeper yes to Jesus in us." How have you experienced this in your own life?
3. The Message emphasizes the importance of becoming like Jesus, not just believing in Him. What challenges do you face in trying to embody Christ-like characteristics?
4. How do you currently engage with the messages you hear each week? Are you actively seeking transformation or passively listening?
5. Bruce suggests having someone to whom you're accountable in your spiritual life. Do you have such a person? If not, what's holding you back?
6. Discuss the statement: "You won't convert people with that [knowledge]. You convert them with your life." How can we live in a way that draws others to Christ?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Reflection: Commit to spending 5-10 minutes each day reflecting on the weekly message and how it applies to your life.
2. Accountability Partner: Seek out a trusted friend or mentor to be your accountability partner in your spiritual journey.
3. Intentional Witness: Choose one area of your life where you can be more intentional about living out your faith this week.
4. Prayer Journal: Start keeping a prayer journal to track your conversations with God and areas of growth.
5. Community Engagement: Look for opportunities to serve others in your community as a way of living out your faith.

Closing Prayer: End the session by praying for each other, asking God to help each member move deeper into transformation and to become impacters in their spheres of influence.