



Series Title: IMPACTERS - Who We Are

Week 6 (9 March 2025)

Summary:

This week's Message delves into the concept of transformation in the Christian life, emphasizing that true faith is not merely about knowledge or religious practices, but about becoming more like Jesus. Bruce outlines six stages of transformation that define the path to holiness and a deeper union with God. He stresses that this transformation is a lifelong process, initiated by God's grace, and requires active participation from believers through purification, renewal of the mind, and living in union with God.

Key Points:

- Transformation is a process, not an instant change.
- Grace is the starting point of transformation, initiated by God.
- Purification involves breaking attachments to sin and worldly things.
- Renewing the mind is crucial for conforming to Christ.
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowers believers.
- Living in union with God through prayer and contemplation is essential.
- Transformation must lead to mission and sharing faith with others.
- The goal is to become fully alive in Jesus and bring others into His presence.

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 12:2 - "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."
- John 15:16 - "You did not choose me but I chose you."
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 - "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?"

Stories:

- Bruce shares a personal anecdote about breaking his habit of saying "you know" too frequently in his talks, illustrating the need for self-discipline and awareness in personal growth.
- He mentions his experience as a teenager attending Christian meetings, initially skeptical but eventually drawn in by the Holy Spirit's work.
- The Message includes a brief mention of athletes and models making sacrifices for their goals, paralleling the spiritual sacrifices needed for holiness.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does the concept of transformation as described in the Message differ from self-improvement, and what implications does this have for our spiritual journey?
- In what ways have you experienced the 'dark night of the soul' in your life, and how has it contributed to your spiritual growth?
- How can we practically apply the idea of 'renewing our mind' in our daily lives, especially when faced with negative thoughts or challenging circumstances?
- What does it mean to be 'fully alive in Jesus,' and how might this manifest differently in various aspects of our lives?
- How can we balance the call to live extraordinary lives as a witness with the reality of our human imperfections and struggles?
- In what ways do you see the six stages of transformation playing out in your own spiritual journey, and which stage do you find most challenging?
- How might our understanding of prayer change if we view it as an 'honest conversation within you' rather than formal, structured communication?
- What are some practical ways we can cultivate a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and work in our daily lives?
- How does the concept of 'spiritual marriage' as mentioned by St. Teresa of Avila relate to our modern understanding of relationship with God?
- In what ways can we ensure that our personal transformation leads to mission and impacts our wider community and culture?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Key Takeaways:

1. Transformation is at the heart of the Christian life - it's about becoming like Jesus, not just gaining knowledge or practicing rituals.
2. Transformation is a process that occurs in six stages, defining a path to holiness and deeper union with God.
3. Grace initiates transformation - it's God's work in us, not self-improvement.
4. Purification involves breaking attachments to sin and worldly things.
5. Renewing our mind is crucial for transformation - our thinking shapes our actions.
6. The Holy Spirit empowers our transformation from within.
7. Living in union with God through prayer is essential.
8. True transformation leads to mission - living an extraordinary life that draws others to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the Message? Why?
2. Bruce mentioned that transformation is not about self-improvement but is "the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit within a person." How does this perspective change how you view spiritual growth?
3. Reflect on the quote: "God who created you without you, will not save you without you." What does this mean to you in terms of your role in transformation?
4. How have you experienced the "dark night of the soul" in your life? How did it contribute to your spiritual growth?
5. The Message emphasized the importance of renewing our minds. What negative thought patterns do you struggle with, and how might you work on transforming them?
6. How do you currently practice prayer in your life? How might you deepen your prayer life to foster a closer union with God?
7. Bruce said, "You don't become who you are for you. You become who you are for others." How does this challenge or encourage you in your spiritual journey?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice intentional silence and contemplation for at least 10 minutes each day. Reflect on how this impacts your awareness of God's presence.
2. Identify one negative thought pattern in your life. Write down a positive, biblical truth to counter it. Commit to meditating on this truth whenever the negative thought arises.

3. Choose one area of your life where you struggle with worldly attachments. Brainstorm practical steps to loosen that attachment and replace it with a God-centered focus.
4. Write a prayer expressing your desire for transformation. Be specific about areas where you want to grow more like Christ.
5. Reflect on your daily interactions. How can you live more "extraordinarily" in a way that might prompt others to ask about your faith? Commit to one specific action this week.
6. Share with the group next time how you applied these practices and what you learned from the experience.