

## **BECOMING THE HEART OF CHRIST**

1 June 2025

### **Summary:**

This Message explores the journey from being inspired by Christ to becoming truly transformed by His love. It emphasizes the importance of not just doing Christian acts but developing the heart of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Message challenges IMPACTERS to move beyond outward participation in faith to inward transformation, highlighting the need for compassion, presence, and hidden acts of love in everyday life.

### **Key Points:**

- The importance of moving from inspiration to activation in faith
- Developing the heart of Christ, not just His hands, feet, and voice
- The role of the Holy Spirit in transforming believers' hearts
- The need for creating silence and guarding one's interior life
- Practicing hidden acts of love and compassion
- The importance of presence and compassion in ministry
- Building a movement of people passionate about a deep relationship with Jesus
- The call to be impactors in one's immediate environment and beyond

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Romans 5:5 - "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."
- Acts 1:8 - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses to the whole world"

### **Stories:**

- The story of a nun separating from her family to fully embody her vocation
- Bruce's experience of influencing hotel staff through small acts of kindness and presence
- St. Mary MacKillop's dedication to education and faith outreach
- The analogy of buying a Pilates machine with enthusiasm but becoming familiar and losing motivation

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (For Individual or Group Reflection)**

How can we cultivate a deeper 'heart of Christ' in our daily lives, and what practical steps can we take to move from inspiration to activation in our faith?

In what ways might our understanding of 'ministry' be limited, and how can we expand our view to see our everyday actions as opportunities to be the hands, feet, and voice of God?

How does the concept of 'familiarity being the enemy of God's progress' apply to our spiritual lives, and what can we do to maintain a sense of awe and expectancy in our faith?

What does it mean to have love 'seep into your bones' as a Christian, and how might this transform our approach to serving others?

How can we create 'silence' and guard our interior life in a noisy, busy world, and why is this crucial for developing a heart for Christ?

In what ways can we practice 'hidden acts of love', and how might these secret gestures deepen our faith and impact others?

How does the Holy Spirit's role in transformation differ from our own efforts, and what does it mean to 'receive the Holy Spirit anew'?

What can we learn from figures like St. Mary MacKillop about living out our faith with both courage and tenderness, even in difficult circumstances?

How can we shift our focus from merely doing Christian activities to truly embodying the love and compassion of Christ in our interactions with others?

In what ways might God be calling us to 'grow in love' today, and how can we be more intentional about responding to this call in our various spheres of influence?

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### **SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group. Begin by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His message and guide your discussion.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. True impact flows from inner conversion and leads to transformation.
2. Love is the foundation of all Christian service and ministry.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love and serve others with compassion.
4. We are all already in ministry through our daily lives and interactions.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Bruce emphasizes the importance of having "the heart of Christ." What does this mean to you, and how can we cultivate this in our lives?
2. Reflect on the statement: "Love grows when no one applauds." How does this challenge our motivations for serving others?
3. The Message mentions several ways to develop a heart for Christ. Which of these resonated with you the most and why?
  - I. Spending time with His heart
  - II. Letting His heart heal yours
  - III. Guarding your interior life
  - IV. Reading Scripture with the eyes of love
  - V. Practicing hidden acts of love
  - VI. Receiving the Holy Spirit anew
4. How can we balance the desire to do big, impactful things for God with the call to do "small things with great love"?
5. Bruce talks about the importance of presence in showing compassion. Share an experience where someone's presence made a significant impact on you.
6. Discuss the concept of "already being in ministry." How does this perspective change the way you view your daily life and interactions?

**Practical Applications:**

1. Impacters Hands and Feet Registry: Take time this week to fill out the registry at [Impacters.global](https://Impacters.global). Reflect on how you are already being Christ's hands and feet in the world.
2. Practice Presence: Choose one person in your life this week to be intentionally present with. Listen actively and show compassion without trying to fix or solve their problems.
3. Hidden Acts of Love: Commit to performing at least one hidden act of love each day this week, with no expectation of recognition or reward.
4. Interior Silence: Set aside 10-15 minutes each day for silent prayer or meditation, focusing on being present with God and listening for His voice.
5. Scripture Reading: Choose a Gospel passage and read it slowly, asking yourself, "What does this reveal about the heart of God?"

**Closing Prayer:**

End the session by praying for each other, asking God to fill you with His love and empower you through the Holy Spirit to be His hands, feet, voice, and heart in the world.