



WE ARE THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD

8 June 2025

Summary:

This Message explores the profound concept of believers becoming a habitation for God, moving beyond merely being visited by God to becoming His dwelling place. Bruce emphasizes that Impacters ministry is not about programs but about presence. He discusses the theology of God's indwelling presence in both individuals and the community of believers, drawing from Scripture and Catholic spirituality. The Message challenges listeners to live as living tabernacles, carrying God's presence wherever they go, and to build spaces where God dwells in homes, neighborhoods, cities, and nations.

Key Points:

- God now dwells in people, not in buildings
- The ultimate goal of God's plan is for people to enter into the life of the Trinity
- Being an "Impacter" means being a living tabernacle of God's presence
- The mission of Impacters is to create habitations of God, not just start meetings or collect followers
- Living as a habitation of God transforms how we serve, love, and interact with the world
- The future of Impact will come from people living as tabernacles of God's glory, not from better marketing or events

Scripture Reference:

- John 14:23 - "Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'"
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 - "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

Stories:

- Bruce mentions Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity, a French Carmelite nun known for her deep understanding of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- Reference to Saint Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St. Joseph as examples of "habitation builders" who created places where Christ was known, loved, and encountered
- Personal anecdote about speaking at an event in Melbourne and people expressing desire to become "Impacters"
- Story about Bruce's grandchildren giving him lectures about being old while helping in the yard

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(For Individual or Group Reflection)

- How does understanding ourselves as a 'habitation of God' change our perspective on daily life and interactions with others?
- In what ways can we cultivate 'interior silence' amidst the noise and distractions of modern life to better experience God's presence within us?
- How might our approach to service and mission change if we view ourselves as 'carriers of habitation' rather than just messengers or volunteers?
- What practical steps can we take to transform our homes, workplaces, or communities into 'dwelling places for God'?
- How does St. Elizabeth of the Trinity's concept of finding 'heaven on earth' within our souls challenge or inspire our spiritual journey?
- In what ways can we embody the legacy of St. Mary MacKillop in creating 'sanctuaries' wherever we go, especially in challenging environments?
- How might our understanding of church community evolve if we view it as a collective 'habitation of God' rather than just a gathering of individuals?
- What are the implications of viewing our bodies as 'temples of the Holy Spirit' for how we care for ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually?
- How can we balance the idea of being 'inhabited by God' with the call to go out and serve in the world?
- In what ways might the concept of being a 'living tabernacle' transform our understanding of worship and prayer in daily life?

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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. God desires to dwell within us, not just visit us.
2. We are called to be living tabernacles - dwelling places for God's presence.
3. Impacters are meant to carry God's presence wherever they go.
4. Our mission flows from God's presence in us, not just from programs or enthusiasm.

Discussion Questions:

1. What struck you most about the concept of being a "habitation of God"? How does this differ from how you've previously thought about your relationship with God?
2. Bruce mentioned, "God is more intimate to me than I am to myself" (St. Augustine). What do you think this means? How might this perspective change how we approach our daily lives?
3. How does the idea of being a "living tabernacle" challenge or encourage you in your faith journey?
4. The Message emphasized that Impact is about "presence, not programs." How might this shift in focus change the way we approach ministry and outreach?
5. Reflect on the statement: "When we feed the hungry, God is present. When we preach truth, God is present." How can we become more aware of God's presence in our everyday actions?
6. Bruce talked about "interior silence." What do you think this means, and how might we cultivate it in our busy lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try to start each day by acknowledging God's presence within you. How does this awareness affect your interactions and decisions throughout the day?
2. Choose one area of your life (e.g., workplace, home, social circle) and consciously think of it as a potential "habitation of God." What changes might you make to cultivate God's presence in that space?
3. Practice "interior silence" for 5-10 minutes each day. Find a quiet spot, close your eyes, and focus on God's presence within you. Journal about your experience.
4. Look for opportunities to be the "hands, feet, and voice" of Christ this week. Share your experiences with the group next time you meet.
5. Reflect on how you can make your small group gathering a "habitation of God." What can each member contribute to create an atmosphere where God's presence is tangibly felt?

Closing Prayer:

Loving Father, thank you for desiring to dwell within us. Help us to become more aware of Your presence in our lives. Transform us into true habitations of Your glory, that we may carry Your presence wherever we go. Guide us in creating spaces where others can encounter You. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.