

HOW TO LIVE IN GOD

29 June 2025

Summary:

This Message explores the profound mystery of the Holy Trinity and our invitation to participate in the divine life. It emphasizes that union with God is not an advanced spiritual state, but our origin and ultimate destiny. Bruce discusses how spiritual desire is the doorway to experiencing God's indwelling presence, leading to a transformation that enables us to become the heart, feet, and voice of Christ in the world.

Key Points:

- The Trinity is a communion of love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- We are created from and for this divine communion
- Spiritual desire is our soul's movement toward God, awakened by grace
- God dwells in us so that we can dwell in Him
- The Christian life is a pattern of union with God, formation in Christ, and mission to the world
- Mary MacKillop's life exemplifies living from desire to habitation to union to mission

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that his spirit dwells in you?"
- Galatians 2:20 - "I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me."
- John 5:19 - "I only do what I see the Father doing."
- John 20:21 - "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Stories:

- Bruce's experience at a Protestant conference where he introduced the sign of the cross
- The story of Mary MacKillop, who lived out the reality of dwelling in God's presence
- Personal anecdotes about encounters with people whose lives were transformed by the message of divine indwelling

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(For Individual or Group Reflection)

1. How does understanding the Trinity as a communion of love, rather than an abstract concept, change your perspective on God and your relationship with Him?
2. In what ways have you experienced spiritual desire in your life, and how has it led you closer to God?
3. How might recognizing ourselves as 'living tabernacles' of God's presence transform our daily interactions and decisions?
4. What can we learn from Mary MacKillop's example of living from a place of spiritual desire and habitation with God?
5. How does the idea that 'union with God is not advanced spirituality, but our origin and destiny' challenge or affirm your current spiritual journey?
6. In what ways can we cultivate a deeper awareness of God's indwelling presence in our lives?
7. How might understanding ourselves as created out of the Trinity's overflowing love impact our sense of purpose and worth?
8. What are some practical ways we can live out the 'Christian rhythm' of union with God, formation in Christ, and mission to the world?
9. How does the concept of being 'exposed to the heart of Jesus' through our relationship with God challenge our usual ways of thinking and acting?
10. In what ways can we balance the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our faith to develop a more holistic understanding of God?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group. Invite a group member to open in prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help everyone understand the deep truths presented in the message.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Trinity is not just who God is, but the divine life we're invited into.
2. We are created from and for communion with the Trinity.
3. Spiritual desire is the doorway to God's indwelling presence.
4. Living in union with God leads to becoming the heart, feet, and voice of Christ in the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding God as a communion of persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) change your perception of Him?
2. Bruce mentions that "union with God is not advanced spirituality. It is your origin and it is your destiny." How does this statement challenge or affirm your current understanding of spirituality?
3. Discuss the concept of spiritual desire. How have you experienced this "soul's movement toward God" in your own life?
4. The message emphasizes that God dwells in us so that we can dwell in Him. How might this reality impact your daily life and relationships?
5. Reflect on the example of Mary MacKillop. How does her life demonstrate the progression from desire to habitation to union to mission?
6. Bruce mentions that "desire is not the same as emotion." How can we cultivate genuine spiritual desire beyond just feelings?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, set aside time each day to simply express your desire for God, even if it's just saying, "I want to love you" as Mary MacKillop did.
2. Practice awareness of God's indwelling presence throughout your day. Set reminders on your phone if needed.
3. Identify one way you can be the "hands, feet, or voice of Christ" in your community this week. Share your experiences at the next meeting.
4. Spend time meditating on Scriptures that speak about our union with God (e.g., John 15:4-5, Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 3:16). Journal your reflections.

Closing Prayer:

Close by praying together, asking God to deepen your understanding and experience of living in communion with the Trinity.