

## **LIVING THE LIFE OF THE TRINITY**

6 July 2025

### **Summary:**

This message explores the profound concept of the Trinity and how Christians are called to live within the dynamic relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Bruce emphasizes that the spiritual life is not about performance for God, but about participation in God's divine nature. He explains that the Trinity is not just a theological concept to understand intellectually, but a mystery to enter and experience. The message challenges listeners to move beyond a superficial understanding of God and into a deeper, transformative relationship with the Trinity.

### **Key Points:**

- The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve, but a mystery to enter
- Mystery in Christian spirituality means infinitely knowable, not unknowable
- The spiritual life is our relationship with God that God helps us live
- We are made by communion, for communion, to live in communion with God
- Living in the Trinity involves receiving like the Son, responding like the Spirit, and resting in the Father
- The early church concept of "perichoresis" describes the Trinity as a divine dance
- Baptism immerses us into the life of the Trinity
- Practical steps are given to help believers live more consciously within the Trinity

### **Scripture Reference:**

- John 5:30 - "I can do nothing on my own. I seek to do not my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."
- Romans 12:2 (paraphrased) - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind
- Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:27, Romans 8:15, John 10:29 (mentioned collectively)

**Stories:**

- Bruce shares a story of praying for a woman who was told she couldn't have children, and later meeting her with her "miracle" baby
- An anecdote about encountering a man in a grocery store who recognized Bruce from a church mission and shared how prayer had helped him and his wife conceive
- A childhood memory of homing pigeons, used as an analogy for the soul's innate desire to return to God
- The story of a white pigeon that didn't return home, used as a metaphor for those who don't respond to their spiritual "homing" instinct

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**(For Individual or Group Reflection)**

1. How does understanding the Trinity as a 'communion of persons' rather than an abstract concept change your perspective on God and your relationship with Him?
2. In what ways can we practically 'receive like the Son, respond like the Spirit, and rest in the Father' in our daily lives?
3. How might viewing mystery in spirituality as 'infinitely knowable' rather than 'unknowable' transform our approach to faith and spiritual growth?
4. What does it mean to 'live from the Trinity' instead of just trying to 'do Christianity', and how might this shift impact our spiritual journey?
5. How can we cultivate a deeper 'spiritual desire' for God, and what obstacles might we need to overcome in this process?
6. In what ways does the concept of 'perichoresis' (the divine dance) challenge or enrich your understanding of the Trinity and our participation in it?
7. How might regularly reflecting on our baptismal identity as being 'immersed into the divine life' change our daily Christian walk?
8. What practical steps can we take to move from living 'apart from' God to living with a constant awareness of His presence?
9. How does the idea of being 'transformed by the renewing of your mind' (Romans 12:2) relate to living in the Trinity, and what might this transformation look like in practice?
10. In what ways can sharing about our spiritual life with others, rather than just our external circumstances, deepen our faith and community connections?

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**SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

**Opening Prayer:**

Pray the Impacters prayer together as a group. Pray the prayer provided at the end of the message.

**Key Takeaways:**

1. The spiritual life is our relationship with God that God helps us live.
2. The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve, but a mystery to enter.
3. We are called to participate in the life of the Trinity, not perform for God.
4. Living in the Trinity involves receiving like the Son, responding like the Spirit, and resting in the Father.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding the Trinity as a "mystery to enter" rather than a "puzzle to solve" change your perspective on your relationship with God?
2. Bruce mentions that "mystery is not about knowing, but knowing deeply." How does this idea challenge or affirm your current understanding of faith?
3. Discuss the difference between trying to "perform" for God versus "participating" in the life of God. How have you experienced each in your own spiritual journey?
4. How does the concept of "receiving like the Son" challenge or inspire you in your daily life?
5. What does it mean to you to "respond like the Spirit" in your everyday interactions and decisions?
6. How can "resting in the Father" impact your prayer life and overall sense of security in your faith?
7. Bruce describes the Trinity as a "divine dance." How does this image help you understand the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**Practical Applications:**

1. Set three daily alarms as reminders to consciously live in the Trinity (receive, respond, rest).
2. At the end of each day this week, reflect on how you responded to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. Practice the three aspects of Trinity living:
  - Start each day by saying, "Father, I receive your love, grace, and identity."
  - Throughout the day, ask the Holy Spirit to guide your actions and decisions.
  - End each day by resting in the Father's love and care.
4. Share with a partner or the group about your spiritual life, focusing specifically on your prayer experiences and sense of God's presence.
5. Choose one area of your life where you tend to "perform" for God, and consciously shift your mindset to "participation" this week.

**Closing Prayer:**

End the session by praying for each other to grow in understanding and living out the reality of the Trinity in daily life.