

## **FAITH FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE**

31 August 2025

### **Summary:**

This Message explores the concept of faith that embraces the seemingly impossible tasks God calls us to. It emphasizes that true faith begins where human capability ends, encouraging believers to trust in God's power to fulfill His promises. The message highlights the importance of naming and claiming God's vision for our lives, even when it seems unattainable, and living in the present as if that future is already secured.

### **Key Points:**

- Faith begins where human strength runs out
- We are chosen by God, not by accident or coincidence
- Writing down and declaring God's vision for our lives is crucial
- Faith draws the future into the present, changing how we live now
- Praise and worship should precede breakthrough
- Faith acts in small, daily steps of obedience, not just grand gestures
- God specializes in the impossible, as shown throughout Scripture and history

### **Scripture Reference:**

- John 15:16 - "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"
- Romans 8:11 - The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in believers
- Acts 16:25-26 - Paul and Silas praising God in prison

**Stories:**

- Abraham and Sarah having a child in old age
- Moses parting the Red Sea
- Mary's acceptance of becoming the mother of Jesus
- Saint Ignatius of Loyola founding the Jesuit order
- Saint Augustine's conversion after his mother's prayers
- Mary MacKillop founding schools in rural Australia despite obstacles

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

#### **(For Individual Reflection)**

How has God worked in impossible situations in your own life, and how has this shaped your faith?

What 'impossible' vision might God be calling you to pursue, and what steps can you take to begin living as if it's already accomplished?

How can we cultivate a habit of praising God before we see breakthroughs, like Paul and Silas in prison?

In what ways might you be shrinking your prayers to match your own strength rather than God's power?

How does understanding yourself as 'chosen' by God, like Mary, change your approach to challenges and calling?

What can we learn from Mary MacKillop's approach to 'never see a need without doing something about it' in our own lives and communities?

How might writing down our visions and prayers, as suggested in Habakkuk, strengthen our faith and keep us accountable?

In what ways can we live out 'faith that acts in steps, not giant leaps' in our daily lives?

How does the concept of 'faith drawing the future into the present' challenge or inspire your current perspective?

What role does remembering God's faithfulness in history play in building our faith for the impossible today?

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### **SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Pray the IMPACTERS prayer together as a group. Ask God to open your hearts and minds to His message and to guide your discussion.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Faith begins where human strength runs out and where we reach our limits.
2. We are chosen by God, not by accident or coincidence.
3. Faith names the impossible out loud and writes the vision clearly.
4. God specializes in the impossible, as seen throughout Scripture and history.
5. Faith draws the future into the present, changing how we live now.
6. Praise precedes breakthrough - worship before deliverance.
7. Faith acts in small steps of daily obedience, not just grand gestures.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Bruce Downes says, "Faith begins where we reach our limit." Can you share a time when you encountered your own limits and had to rely on faith?
2. How does knowing you are chosen by God impact your approach to challenges or seemingly impossible situations?
3. What is an "impossible" vision or dream that God has placed on your heart? Have you named it out loud or written it down? If not, what's holding you back?
4. The sermon mentions several biblical and historical examples of faith in impossible situations (Abraham, Moses, Mary, etc.). Which story resonates most with you and why?
5. How can we cultivate a habit of praising God before we see breakthrough in our lives?
6. Bruce Downes emphasizes "faith acts in steps, not giant leaps." What small steps of obedience might God be calling you to take right now?
7. How does the idea that "faith draws the future into the present" challenge or encourage you in your current circumstances?

**Practical Applications:**

1. Write down your "impossible" vision or dream from God. Share it with a trusted friend or your small group for accountability and prayer support.
2. Commit to doing the nine days of prayer again, personalizing the prayers for your own life and vision.
3. Start a daily habit of praising God, especially in challenging situations or before seeing breakthrough.
4. Identify one small step of obedience you can take this week towards your God-given vision or in an area where you're seeking breakthrough.
5. Create a "faith journal" where you record God's faithfulness and answered prayers to combat forgetfulness and build your faith.
6. Choose a Bible story or historical example of faith mentioned in the sermon and study it more deeply this week. Reflect on how it applies to your life.
7. As a group, discuss ways you can support each other in pursuing your "impossible" visions and living out faith in daily life.

**Closing Prayer:**

End your session by praying together, "Holy Spirit, come to me. Holy Spirit, send me." Spend a few moments in silence, listening for God's response.

Follow-up: Encourage group members to share their experiences of being "IMPACTERS" at the next meeting.