

HABITATION MADE REAL

5 October 2025

Summary:

This message emphasizes the critical importance of prayer in the Christian life, describing it as the foundation for a deep, transformative relationship with God. Bruce explores the concepts of desire for God and habitation - the indwelling presence of God in believers. The message encourages Christians to move beyond sporadic prayer to a constant awareness of God's presence, framing this as essential for personal growth, mission, and the health of Christian communities.

Key Points:

- Prayer is not an accessory to faith but a lifeline for connection with God
- Desire for God is a holy ache within us, pointing us toward our true home
- Habitation is the awareness and experience of God's indwelling presence
- Prayer transforms us and sustains our mission as Christians
- Cultivating awareness of God's presence should be a daily practice
- The Christian life is about becoming, not just believing
- Prayer is the first pillar of proclamation for the Impactors community

Scripture Reference:

- John 15: "Abide in me as I abide in you. Apart from me, you can do nothing."
- John 14:23: "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?"

Stories:

- Bruce shares personal experiences of keeping a prayer journal and the importance of consistent prayer
- The analogy of a phone in airplane mode is used to illustrate a disconnected Christian life
- The story of Brother Lawrence, a 17th-century monk who practiced the presence of God in everyday tasks
- Bruce's conversation with his spiritual mentor, Father Des, about the importance of prayer even after 50 years

HABITATION MADE REAL

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the IMPACTERS prayer together as a group. Ask God to lead the group in prayer, inviting God's presence and guidance during your discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Prayer is essential for a deep, growing relationship with God.
2. We all have a God-given desire and restlessness that can only be fulfilled by Him.
3. Habitation refers to God making His home within us.
4. Awareness of God's presence can transform our daily lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. The message emphasizes that "prayer is connection" and "not an accessory to faith." How has prayer impacted your relationship with God? Share an experience where prayer made a difference in your life.
2. Reflect on the concept of "desire" as described in the sermon. Have you ever experienced that "holy ache" or restlessness for God? How did it manifest in your life?
3. Bruce mentions that "desire is powerful, and if it's not purified, it can turn us away from God instead of toward him." Can you think of examples where misplaced desires have led you or others astray?
4. Discuss the idea of "habitation" - God making His home within us. How does this concept challenge or encourage your understanding of your relationship with God?
5. The message suggests practical ways to cultivate awareness of God's presence throughout the day. Which of these resonated with you, and why?
6. How might your daily life change if you consistently lived with the awareness that you are "God's temple" and that He dwells within you?
7. Bruce emphasizes that "prayer is not about searching for a God that's far away. It's about living in awareness of the God who already dwells in you." How does this perspective shift your approach to prayer?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Greeting: Start each day this week by saying, "Lord, make my heart your home." Journal about how this practice affects your day.

2. Presence Triggers: Choose 2-3 daily activities (e.g., phone ringing, getting in the car) as reminders to acknowledge God's presence. Share your experiences next week.
3. Evening Review: Before bed, reflect on where you noticed God's presence during the day and where you may have forgotten Him. Consider sharing insights with an accountability partner.
4. Scripture Meditation: Spend time meditating on John 14:23 or 1 Corinthians 6:19 this week, reflecting on what it means for God to dwell within you.

Closing Prayer:

End the session by praying together, asking God to deepen your awareness of His presence and transform your prayer lives.