

THE IMPACTERS RULE OF PRAYER AND DAILY LIFE

2 November 2025

Summary:

This message calls IMPACTERS to a season of intentional listening to God's voice, drawing parallels between the Israelites' failure to enter the Promised Land and our tendency to miss God's direction in our lives. Bruce shares a personal testimony of how God has been stirring his spirit, calling the community to establish a "rule of prayer," not as legalistic obligation, but as a spiritual rhythm that keeps hearts aligned with God. The message emphasizes that every promised land is occupied and requires faith to possess, and that we often miss God's voice because we believe human reports over divine promises. The message introduces a practical framework for prayer and spiritual listening, encouraging the entire Catholic Guy IMPACTERS community worldwide to enter a season of deep prayer and discernment, with no predetermined end date, until God speaks clearly about what He wants to do among them.

Key Points:

- God speaks to open hearts, not through audible voices but through the conscience and inner stirring of the Spirit
- The Israelites' failure to enter the Promised Land resulted from believing human reports over God's promises
- Every promised land is occupied by giants that are bigger than us and must be fought for through faith
- A "rule of prayer" is not restriction but rhythm, a spiritual framework that keeps the heart aligned with God
- Prayer is the first movement of every IMPACTER; all mission begins in God's presence
- The practical prayer rhythm includes: daily Eucharist (for Catholics), 15 minutes of dedicated prayer daily, Scripture reading, community prayer, weekly worship, and one act of mercy per week
- God transforms us from the heart, the center of our being where decisions are made
- Faithfulness in prayer matters more than feelings; showing up even in spiritual dryness is a powerful act of love
- The IMPACTERS community is being called to lift their "spiritual antennas" and listen in a way they may never have before
- This is one of the rare moments in the speaker's 52-year Christian journey where he senses God wants to say something significant

Scripture Reference:

- Numbers 13 (The twelve spies sent to scout the Promised Land)
- Numbers 14:23-24 (God's judgment and Caleb's faithfulness)
- Deuteronomy 11:18 (Putting God's words in heart and soul)
- Genesis 3:9 (God calling to Adam: "Where are you?")
- Hebrews 4:12 (The word of God is living and active)
- Matthew 12:34 (Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks)
- Psalm 133 (Brief psalm mentioned as an example)

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Pray the IMPACTERS prayer together as a group. Begin by asking God to help each person be open to His voice and to give wisdom for the discussion ahead.

Introduction:

This message is about learning to listen to God's voice in a deeper way than we may have experienced before. Bruce shares how God has been stirring his spirit, calling the entire Catholic Guy community to a season of intentional listening. This guide will help your group engage with this important call.

Key Takeaways:

1. **God Still Speaks Today** - God speaks not through audible voices or letters, but in our conscience, in that inner place where "you know, you know, you know."
2. **Every Promised Land is Occupied** - Like the Israelites facing giants, our breakthroughs require faith and obedience, not just waiting for things to happen.
3. **The Danger of Missing God's Voice** - The Israelites wandered 40 years because they listened to human reports instead of God's promise. We can miss what God wants to say if we're not careful.
4. **The Rule of Prayer is a Rhythm, Not a Restriction** - It's a guideline that provides direction and balance, keeping us focused on God's love.
5. **Prayer is Where We Find God** - If we want to hear God speak, we must spend intentional time with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. **The Israelites' Story** (Numbers 13):
 - Why do you think the Israelites believed the negative report of the 10 spies instead of trusting God's promise?
 - What "giants" or obstacles in your life make you doubt what God might be calling you to do?
 - Can you identify times when you've listened to human voices over God's voice? What was the result?
2. **The Heart as the Center:**

- Bruce emphasized that God speaks to our "heart" - the center of who we are. What does it mean practically to keep your heart open to God?
- What closes your heart to hearing God? (Fear, busyness, past disappointments, etc.)

3. **Sandy and Paolo's Influence:**

- Bruce credits Sandy and Paolo with being prophetic voices that stirred him to listen to God. Who has been that person in your life?
- How can you be that voice for someone else?

Application Questions

1. **The Rule of Prayer** - Bruce outlined several prayer rhythms:

- **15 minutes of daily prayer:** What prevents you from spending 15 focused minutes with God each day? What would you need to change to make this happen?
- **Daily Scripture reading** (one chapter): What has been your experience with regular Bible reading? What helps or hinders you?
- **Community prayer:** How does praying with others strengthen your relationship with God?

2. **Acts of Mercy:**

- Bruce challenged everyone to commit to one act of mercy each week. What might that look like for you this week?
- How does showing mercy to others help us hear God's voice more clearly?

3. **Starting Again:**

- Bruce shared about writing "didn't pray" in his journal for pages. How does this honesty about failure encourage you?
- What does "just start again" mean for your spiritual life right now?

Practical Applications:

This Week I Will:

1. **Pray 15 minutes daily** - Choose a specific time and place. Not in bed, not in the shower, but dedicated time with God.
 - When will you pray? _____
 - Where will you pray? _____
2. **Read one chapter of Scripture daily** - Reading for transformation, not just information.
 - What book will you start with? _____

3. Pray the community prayer:

- Morning: "Lord Jesus, give me a hunger today to see all people encounter you as their personal Lord and Savior."
- Before meals and bedtime: Continue the rhythm
- Night: "Lord, let my life today proclaim your glory."

4. Commit to one act of mercy this week:

- What specific act will you do? _____
- Who will you show mercy to? _____

Going Deeper This Week

Resources

- Access the "Who We Are" document (Blue Pages) at the website mentioned in the sermon
- Focus specifically on "The Rule of Prayer and Daily Spiritual Life" section
- Read Numbers 13-14 (the complete story of the 12 spies)

Reflection Prompts for Personal Prayer Time

1. "Lord, what are you saying to me right now in my life?"
2. "What 'giants' am I facing that make me doubt your promises?"
3. "Who do I need to be a 'Sandy and Paolo' for?"
4. "What part of my heart is closed to you? Why?"

If You Feel Dry in Prayer

Remember Bruce's words: "There'll be days when you feel dry, distracted, or distanced. These aren't moments of failure, they are an invitation. Simply showing up, simply being quiet, simply whispering His name becomes a powerful act of love."

When prayer feels hard:

- Just show up for your 15 minutes
- Say honestly: "God, I'm here but I don't know what to say"
- Read Psalm 139 or another favorite psalm
- Sit in silence and simply rest in His presence

Closing Prayer:

Loving Father, we give you thanks and praise because you're good. We pray right now in Jesus' name that you would speak in these days. We put up our spiritual antenna. We will step into a rhythm of prayer, of listening, of acting in you. And we will be silent enough to hear your voice. Come, Lord God. Send your Holy Spirit. We're open. Amen.