

HOW TO MAKE ROOM FOR GOD ONLY

7 December 2025

SUMMARY:

This message marks a pivotal moment as Bruce Downes reflects on the transformative year and looks ahead to 2025-2026 with anticipation. The central message revolves around consecration - dedicating oneself wholly to God and His purposes. Bruce defines IMPACTERS as Christians who have been impacted by God and then impact others through their ordinary, everyday lives lived with deliberate purpose and deep surrender. Rather than calling for more activity or busyness, God is calling for more of our hearts - deeper attention, availability, listening, and surrender. The message emphasizes that God prepares people internally before using them externally, and that consecration is not about perfection but about saying "Lord, I want what you want for me." The community is called to enter 21 days of prayer beginning January 1st, 2026, to consecrate the new year to God and prepare for the significant work He has ahead.

KEY POINTS

- An IMPACTER is someone who has been impacted by God and then impacts others in their ordinary everyday life
- IMPACTERS is a community of people learning to live their faith with deliberate purpose and deep surrender
- God prepares people internally before He uses them externally
- Consecration means dedicating yourself to God and desiring His will to be at work within you
- God doesn't call people based on convenience but based on His purpose
- More doesn't mean more activity. God wants more of our heart, attention, availability, and surrender
- Availability is one of the greatest gifts we can give to God
- Consecration is not a single moment but a posture of life that continually says "Lord, here am I"
- Prayer changes us, not just circumstances. It softens us, opens us, and creates space for God to shape us
- The community is called to 21 days of prayer beginning January 1st, 2026, to commit the year to God
- Vision for 2026 includes: a school of formation, IMPACTERS Care ministry, youth and young adult ministry expansion, and multiplying communities globally

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- Joshua's call to the people: "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you"
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke: Jesus' words "Watch and pray"
- The pattern throughout Scripture of God preparing people before leading them into something new (crossing the Jordan, Moses on the mountain, Pentecost)

QUOTES

- An IMPACTER is someone who has been impacted by God who then impacts others.
- IMPACTERS is a people God is gathering who are learning to live their faith with deliberate purpose and deep surrender in their ordinary everyday lives.
- God prepares a people internally before he uses them externally.
- Consecration means to dedicate yourself to God and to desire His will to be at work within you.
- God doesn't call people based on their convenience. God calls people based upon His purpose.
- Availability says to God, you can speak, you can lead, you can interrupt, you can shape, and you can change my plans. Availability is the heart of consecration.
- Prayer does not just change circumstances. Prayer changes us.

HOW TO MAKE ROOM FOR GOD ONLY

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by asking someone to pray, inviting God's presence into your time together. Ask the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to hear what God wants to say to each person. Pray the IMPACTERS Community Prayer.

ICE BREAKER

Question: Share one way you've seen God work in your life this past year. How has your faith journey changed or deepened in 2025?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. What is an IMPACTER?

An IMPACTER is someone who has been impacted by God and then impacts others through their ordinary, everyday life.

2. The Call to Consecration

Consecration means dedicating yourself to God and desiring His will to be at work within you. It's saying: "Lord, I want what You want for me."

3. God Prepares Before He Uses

God prepares people internally before He uses them externally. He's been forming us throughout 2025 for what lies ahead in 2025-2026.

4. Availability Over Ability

God doesn't call based on convenience, age, or circumstances. He calls based on His purpose and asks for our availability and willingness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Understanding the Message

1. **What does it mean to be an "IMPACTER"?** How does this definition challenge or encourage you in your current stage of life?
2. The message stated: "God prepares a people internally before He uses them externally." What do you think this means? Can you share examples from Scripture or your own life?
3. **What is consecration?** Why is it different from simply being religious or doing more activities?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Bruce Downes mentioned that many people have felt "something stirring" in them this year. Have you experienced this? What has God been awakening in your heart?
2. **What excuses have you made about why God can't use you?** (Too old, too young, too busy, not spiritual enough, etc.) How does the example of St. Teresa of Lisieux challenge those excuses?
3. The message asks: "Will we be people who simply listen each week to messages and return to our lives unchanged? Or will we be people who say to God, 'We're yours. Prepare us. Form us'?" Which category do you honestly find yourself in right now?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. **The 21 Days of Prayer commitment** is being offered for January 1-21, 2026. What might make this challenging for you? What would help you commit to it?
2. Bruce Downes said, "Consecration means we choose to make room before we know what the room will be used for." What would making room for God look like practically in your daily life?
3. **"Availability is one of the greatest gifts we can give God."** What is one area of your life where you need to become more available to God? What would that require you to surrender?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Have each person share which of these statements resonates most with them:

- An IMPACTER is someone impacted by God who then impacts others
- God doesn't call based on convenience; He calls based on His purpose
- Consecration is saying: "Lord, I want what You want for me"
- Availability is the heart of consecration
- God prepares us internally before using us externally

- Prayer changes us, not just our circumstances
- "Lord, if this is You, I will follow" is the prayer of consecration

ACTION STEPS

Individual Commitments

1. **Commit to the 21 Days of Prayer** (January 1-21, 2026)
 - Get the daily devotional materials
 - Set aside a specific time each day
 - Find an accountability partner in the group
2. **Practice Availability This Week**
 - Each morning pray: "Lord, I want what You want for me today"
 - Be attentive to opportunities to be Jesus to others
 - Journal about one moment each day where you sensed God's prompting
3. **Reflect on Consecration**
 - Write down areas of your life you've been holding back from God
 - Pray specifically about surrendering those areas
 - Share your commitment with someone you trust.

Group Commitments

- Agree to pray for each other throughout the 21 Days of Prayer
- Consider starting a group chat to share daily encouragements
- Plan to meet again after the 21 days to share what God has done
- Discuss whether your group might become an official IMPACTERS Community

CLOSING PRAYER

Go around the circle and have each person pray one sentence, dedicating themselves and the group to God's purposes for 2026. End with this prayer:

"Loving Father, we come before You and ask Your presence to be upon us. As we prepare for what lies ahead, allow us to be open to You. We seek You. May we consecrate ourselves to You by praying: Lord, Your will be done in me. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen."

FOR NEXT WEEK

Encourage everyone to:

- Continue reflecting on what God is stirring in their hearts
- Begin preparing for the 21 Days of Prayer

- Consider how they can live as an "IMPACTER" in their everyday circumstances
- Bring questions and insights from their week to the next gathering

LEADER NOTES

- **Create a Safe Space:** Encourage honesty about struggles and doubts
- **Watch for the Holy Spirit:** Be flexible if discussion goes in an unexpected direction
- **Follow Up:** Check in with group members during the week, especially those who shared vulnerably
- **Prepare Your Heart:** As a leader, model consecration and availability to God
- **Emphasize Grace:** This is about relationship with God, not religious performance