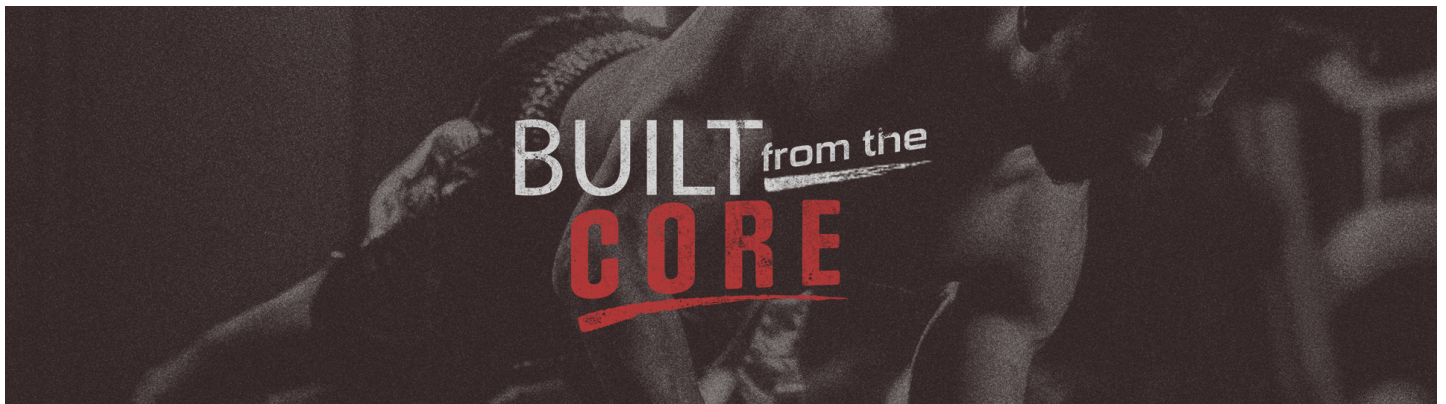




Built from the Core // Part 7

Introduction:

This week Chance continues a new series called '**Built From The Core**' with the message for **Week 7: Made to Make a Difference**. Do you know what the Core of Grace Community Church is, why it's important and why it matters?

As we continue to look at our Core Beliefs, the sixth is '**Gifted Service**'. Every follower of Jesus has been gifted to serve. Do you know what you have been gifted by God to serve? Every follower of Jesus has been gifted to serve. Are you using your gifts to bring glory to God by serving?

Questions:

1. Are you in a season of discouragement? Why does Peter say that you need to be prepared to suffer as a follower of Jesus? How does Peter advise you to prepare for the discouragement and suffering that will come? **1 Peter 4:1**
2. What does Peter say is one of the benefits of dying to yourself? As you grow in your faith and submit your life to Christ, do you find that you are anxious to do God's will rather than your own will? **1 Peter 4:2-3**
3. As you experience life change, and begin living for God, do you find yourself as the outcast among your friends? How can this be an opportunity for you to use the gifts God has given you to point others to Jesus? **1 Peter 4:4-6**
4. How can being aware of the end that is coming, help you to be earnest in your prayers? What are some ways that you can demonstrate deep love for other

people? How should you be praying for God to provide you with opportunities to show love to others? **1 Peter 4:7-9**

5. Do you know that God has given each follower of Jesus unique gifts? Do you know God has a specific gift for you, that He has set you apart for something and has gifted you to serve others and that will bring Him glory? **1 Peter 4:10-11**
6. Are you living out your gifts? Do you know how to find your gifts? Do you know what your gifts are? If not, are you ready to complete the SHAPE'd assessment? Email to shape@mygcc.org for the link.

SHAPE is an acronym standing for:

Spiritual Gifts - God-given gifts of a believer.

Heart - Passions that energize and motivate.

Abilities - Talent and knowledge that equip.

Personality - How you relate to others, view the world.

Experience - Wisdom gained, what you have seen, learned.

If you know your gifts and that you are saved to serve, not to sit, what are you doing with the gifts that God has given uniquely to you?

7. One thing we can all do is to pray, please pray intentionally for students as they start a new year in school. How to pray:
- Ask for safety and protection over their minds, bodies and spirits in every classroom, hallway and playground.
 - Ask God to calm nervous hearts, replace fear with peace, and release any anxiety about fitting in or handling school work.
 - Ask God to provide Godly, uplifting friends who encourage good choices and stand by them through difficult moments.
 - Pray that students see their school as a mission field, shining the light of Jesus and treating others with kindness and forgiveness.
 - Ask for compassionate hearts to show love and forgiveness to others.

Key takeaway: When you understand that God has created you for a specific purpose, and you live into that calling, it pushes you to live on purpose! The best

part is, when you use your spiritual gift you bring glory to God. Do you know your gift? If you do, are you living it out for God's purposes?

Summary:

- Be ready to suffer physically for Christ
- Conviction to be anxious to do God's will
- Experiencing life change, being different than friends
- Be prepared because the end is coming, so love others deeply
- God has provided each of Jesus' followers with unique gifts
- The responsibility is to use your gift to equip God's people/body
- You are saved to serve, not to sit