

What this video means to me...

- Reminder of God's faithfulness
- Reminder of the 1st generation mindset of our core members
 - We will give and serve and love and do whatever we can to see this through
- Reminder of dear friends who blessed this church with seasons of their life
- Reminder of how quickly 5 years go by

Tears at Chipotle

For the next 5 weeks, I am asking you to join me in prayer as we consider this passage of scripture together.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

(Eph 3:14–21)

- Since we started 5 years ago, God has been bringing more and more people into Grace Auburn. As we continue to proclaim the Gospel, more people are finding our church as their home. We want to welcome anyone seeking to know and love Jesus. As our lease ends in 2024, we are beyond capacity at 720 E. Glenn, and recognize the need to increase our space for worship, Grace Kids, Grace Students, Grace Campus and other ministry use throughout the week. In the last 30 days, our average Sunday attendance has been just over 1000 people per Sunday. (1051 to be exact).
- For two years we have explored every opportunity, for lease or purchase, with a team of real estate, construction, legal and finance experts from our church and community. The potential land purchase announced in January fell through recently because costs continued to balloon for the seller and for us - including road/traffic light costs from the city of Auburn. We have prayed consistently, worked hard and learned so much in this process.

- Similar to seeing 720 E Glenn at just the right time... in faith and with vision, we have continued to pray for clear direction. Recently this opportunity was made available to us. After two years of hard work and exploration, this opportunity emerged in an “only-God” kind of way. This building can be converted to a church at half the cost of building a new one of similar size, with abundant room for us now and for years to come. This isn't what we expected - but we sense it's what God providentially provided, especially considering rising land and construction costs.
- During this process, we have been good stewards of church finances, preparing for our future by saving almost \$2.5 million in cash for our next home. The estimated purchase and renovation cost will be \$12 million. We hope to raise an additional \$6-7 million in cash and if any financing is needed, to limit our borrowing to \$3-4 million with the goal of eliminating the debt in 2-3 years with pledges and gifts.
- The goal would be to raise all \$12 million – so if you want to write that check. There's a box in the back.
- But what we really want – is for all of us to say YES. If you are already giving in Joyful Generosity – then you know the joy of walking in obedience when it comes to giving. If you haven't begun giving – this is the moment. You need to know that so many of us as members have committed to consistent joyful giving alongside one another. As members of this church, this is the commitment we have all made to one another.
- Pray and ask the Lord what He wants you to do in this area of your life. We are praying for consensus among Grace Auburn members to move forward with faith and corresponding financial provision.

As your friend and pastor, I want you to know there are three specific things that can affect the outcome of this proposal.

- The City of Auburn will need to re-zone this building from industrial use to commercial use. We are already working with an engineer and city officials on this process but it requires time and patience. Please pray for favor in this process. We trust God and want to honor and bless those in leadership over Auburn.

- Financial provision is part of God's confirmation to us. Where He leads, He provides. While we are seeing this opportunity with wisdom and faith, we are also expectant of how He will move in the hearts of our church family and in kingdom-minded friends of Grace Auburn who want to see the local Church thrive.
- Unity among believers is evidence of maturity in the body of Christ. If for some reason, there is a lack of consensus among our members, we want to listen, pray, and have dialogue regarding concerns people may have about this opportunity. Our elder team, pastors, and staff are available to you.

Rest assured, our purchase agreement makes provision for Grace Auburn to not proceed with the purchase if zoning, finances, or congregational disunity should occur.

Today as you leave – there are commitment cards for our members, not yet members, and guests outside. Our team will help you.

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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According to the riches of his glory – we can be strengthened with power through his Spirit in our inner being – so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith

Where else do we see this at work in the Bible?

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, *21* that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. *22* The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, *23* I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. (Jn 17:20–23)

Jesus says it... “I in them” — “That the world will know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (Col 1:25–29)

What does it mean to recognize Christ at work in us? Christ in us the hope of glory? How do we discover “his energy powerfully powerfully at work within us” ?

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Ga 2:19–20)

How can we move towards a life lived by faith in the Son of God – knowing and resting in the FACT that He loves us and gave himself for us?

I want you to hear clearly today — that knowing Jesus is the goal. His glory is the goal. Proclaiming who HE is and what HE has done is the goal. Loving people in the name of Jesus is the goal.

These five weeks of prayer and decision making and commitment — is that we would know and love Jesus and move forward in faith together – with CHRIST dwelling in our hearts through faith.

So – even if the city officials say no to rezoning this building – our focus will be on walking with Jesus as we walk away from this purchase opportunity.

So – even if some disagreement or disunity occurs within our congregation – our focus will be on walking with Jesus while some may choose to not participate.

So – even if Joyful Generosity means personal sacrifice and increasing kingdom stewardship – our focus will be on walking with Jesus while we see how He will provide all that we need.

