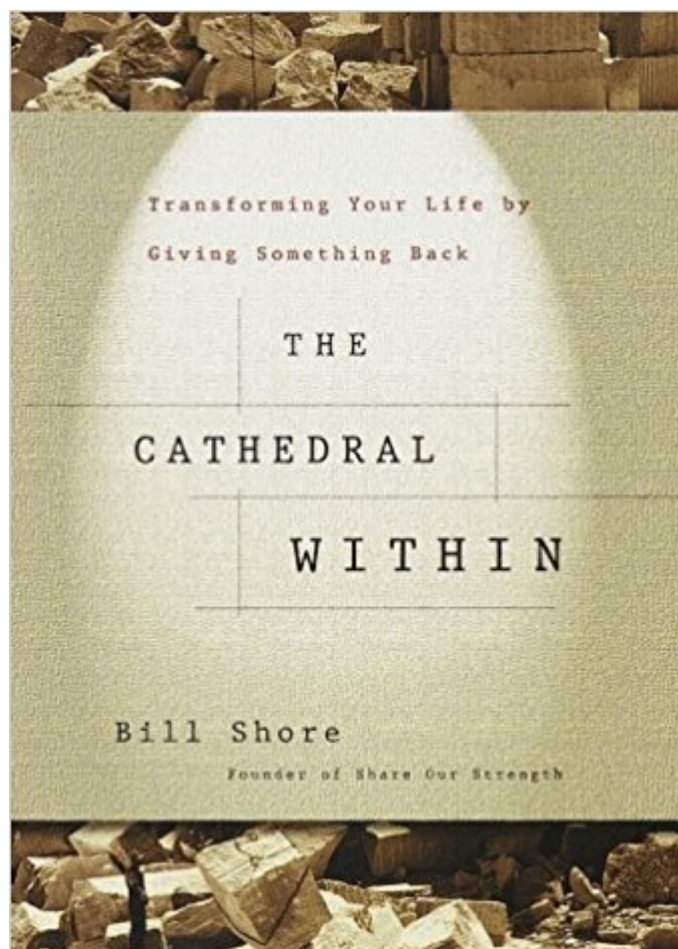


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The Cathedral Within



Synopsis

Bill Shore has written a wise and inspiring book that shows us how to make the most of life and do something that counts. Like the cathedral builders of an earlier time, the visionaries described in this memoir share a single desire: to create something that endures. The great cathedrals did not soar skyward because their builders discovered new materials or financial resources; rather, the builders had a unique understanding of the human spirit that enabled them to use those materials in a new way. So, too, have the extraordinary people Bill Shore has met in his travels as one of the nation's leading social entrepreneurs, a new movement of citizens who are tapping the vast resources of the private sector to improve public life. Among them are: Gary Mulhair, who has created unprecedented jobs and wealth at the largest self-supporting human-service organization of its kind, Pioneer Human Services of Seattle-Denver chef Noel Cunningham, who has committed his life to ending hunger and has galvanized a community to take action-Nancy Carstedt of the Chicago Children's Choir, which provides thousands of children with an introduction to music-Alan Khazei of City Year, which has become the model for President Clinton's vision of national service-Geoffrey Canada, who has created a safe haven for more than four thousand inner-city children in New York City, from Harlem to Hell's Kitchen. These leaders, and many others described in these pages, have built important new cathedrals within their communities, and by doing so they have transformed lives, including their own.

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Customer Reviews

The Cathedral Within uses the metaphor of architecture to look at the way individuals allocate their

resources to improve public life. Just as the enduring magnificence of a cathedral is not erected overnight, so, too, the transformation of a society takes many, many years to complete. And just as the construction of a cathedral is less a reflection of its builders' interest in masonry than a testament to the soaring reach of the human spirit, philanthropy is not so much a response to need as to a basic human requirement to give something meaningful back to society. Bill Shore is the founder of Share Our Strength, a national nonprofit devoted to raising funds for antihunger and antipoverty organizations worldwide, and his book showcases the stories of some of the social entrepreneurs he has come across in the course of his work. Among his chosen visionaries are Alan Khazei, the cofounder of City Year, the community-service program upon which Bill Clinton drew for his own model of a national service, and Geoffrey Canada, the president and CEO of the Rheedlen Centers, designed to provide a safe haven for inner-city children. These leaders and many others, Shore argues, represent a kind of symbiosis between the need to improve oneself personally and the drive to transform the community. The Cathedral Within also contains an excellent resource directory of community organizations where readers can begin their own process of giving back. --Patrizia DiLucchio

This book is not about religious consolation or giving. It is about helping, and finding that more rewarding than business or politics. But that still makes it sound too much like a self-help tome. It is an explanation of why helping is important and how sound helping organizations are succeeding these days, when government helping programs are scaling back and dying out. Shore directs Share Our Strength, an organization that helps organizations concerned with alleviating hunger and poverty, especially for children. Indeed, trotting out some fine illustrative stories about what children need from his own fatherly experience, Shore posits children's health and welfare as the quintessential reasons for helping work. As for the success stories in helping work today, Shore profiles seven. The most striking commonality among them is entrepreneurial spirit: if these nonprofit agencies don't already have for-profit subsidiaries, they are seriously considering them. For they see, as Shore emphasizes, that charity and redistribution of wealth (taxes for government programs) must be supplemented by "creating new wealth" through producing and selling goods and services. So young or dissatisfied businesspersons looking for meaningful work should consider helping work, Shore suggests, engaging in it as if it were the work of building a cathedral--seemingly endless but endlessly rewarding: think of it as a cathedral within. Ray Olson

FULL of success stories and specific examples about mission specific organizations building

long-term sustainability into their business model with creative, community-oriented revenue streams. One of the most inspiring and practical books I've ever read. My original copy is dog-eared, underlined, notes... and I've contacted many of the people mentioned in the book to further the conversation and learn more. If you're starting a non-profit or already run one and you're looking for ideas for long-term sustainability, this is a book you should absolutely read NOW.

Billy Shore doesn't just have a message; he is a great storyteller with a message. The result is a book that you won't want to stop reading until you get to the very last page. Then you will want to go out and do something to make yourself and the world a little bit better place. It has been a long time since I read a book that made me think so much, or reflect so deeply on the world in which we live; or the one that we will leave to the next generations. Shore guides us to the realization that there is much that we can be doing to leave our children the basic freedoms of safety, education and the ability to earn a decent livelihood; things that many of us took for granted. This book has genuine heroes and heroines, great parenting stories, humour, lots of examples of what's working, and some very pointed examples of why the clock is ticking for the children of our country. And as the title promises, just reading the book makes you begin to feel empowered to start giving more to get more out of life. A great dose of inspiration and direction for individuals and organizations.

I attended a training and learned of this book. It is a great read for those that work in the business of serving others. I always look to for my books first, shipping is reasonable, came before schedule, just as the seller described, and was \$15 cheaper than bookstore plus they would have had to order it and got it to me quicker.

Awesome product. Came on time and I loved it so much. Works till today.

Great book with an important message.

This book shifts your "glass ceiling". It expands your vision and your expectations. Inspirational. Based on real achievement. Well worth reading

Read about how charities HAVE to change from desecrating poor people to enabling them to become human beings. And its written by a liberal.

The most intriguing thing about this book was its title. As a student of the late Dallas Willard, I know something about personal transformation, and was hoping for some spiritual depth; what I got was a basic lesson in architecture. Nice facade, but empty within. I found the contents to be almost completely useless to me individually, not to say it can't be beneficial to others. Buy it used and cheap, and you won't be incredibly disappointed.

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