

Hour of Power vom 13.08.2017

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GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

HS: Good morning. We are so honored to have you here today. The bible says beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health and that your soul prospereth. God is for us. He has always been for us.

BS: Amen.

HS: Would you turn around and shake the hands of the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

BS: Everyone, this is Evelyn Freed. How many of you know our dear friend Evelyn. Evelyn's been a lifelong friend of our family and she has agreed to help our church in a big way. Starting in November we're going onto ABC Family at 6 am and the Evelyn Family Trust Foundation has paid for the first year of that, so we are so thankful to Evelyn. So we just wanted to say thank you to Evelyn. Is there anything you want to say?

EF: He was going to have me stand up but he said I was too short.

BS: Yes, that's right. Well if everyone's standing, you can't see her because she's hiding in the middle there. So give Evelyn a big hug and thank her for helping us when you see her today. Thank you, Evelyn. We love you and appreciate you. Thanks. Here let me help you down the stairs. Okay.

And let's pray: Father, we thank you so much that you are here. We thank you, God that you have gathered us and we are so honored that you are in our presence. Lord, many of us, in fact probably all of us are coming here with some burden or another. Lord, we leave it at the cross. We thank you that you are good enough and strong enough to handle our burdens. Lord, you have a great plan for our lives and would you give us eyes to see that plan, or at least hope in believing that that plan is truly there. Lord, we ask this in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE – Philippians 4, 4-9- HS

You may be seated. In preparation for Bobby's message, the words of our Lord: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received, or heard from me, or seen in me, put into practice, and the peace of God will be with you.

May we as God's children let go of our worry. May we be joyous today because our God has it under control.

INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BS) with Lisa Osteen-Comes (LOC)

BS: My guest today is Lisa Osteen-Comes. She is an associate pastor at Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas under the leadership of her brother Joel Osteen. Lisa has 25 years of preaching and ministry experience and is involved in many aspects of the church's leadership. She has an amazing story of her own, which we're going to hear today, and we're thrilled to have her this morning. Please welcome with me Lisa Comes. Hi, Lisa.

LOC: Hello. We've just so loved and admired your family for years and years, and it's an honor to be here.

BS: Thank you, Lisa. Well it's our honor and of course Lisa and I have become friends over the past year, and what's so amazing about Lakewood, and please just bear with me for a minute, is you know we're very different tradition –

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this is a Reformed tradition, you know, which is like a more strict version of Presbyterian, you know, and then you guys are in the charismatic word of faith tradition and it is very different. And yet Lakewood has been so honoring and supportive of this ministry. Just been so available, your whole family. We were in Lakewood two weeks with you guys for a training for pastors and a bunch of pastors from all sorts of different types of churches gathered and you were my favorite.

LOC: Oh thank you.

BS: Because you spoke and I was writing down so much stuff. My favorite was "Preach what you take for granted." I love that. It was so good.

LOC: Oh that's good. Can I tell Joel that? That I'm your favorite?

BS: You absolutely can.

LOC: Okay.

BS: And you should, you should tell him today. Yes.

LOC: Thank you so much.

BS: So a lot of people know your brother Joel and more people should know your father, John, because he had an amazing ministry. He was a long-time pastor in Houston. And you've had an interesting journey, but a big part of your journey actually starts with your birth. So you started out with some..

LOC: Yes.

BS: ..issues. Tell us a bit about that.

LOC: You know I was born with a crippling disease and the doctors said that I would probably never walk or talk. It was similar to cerebral palsy. And you know my parents, they loved the Lord, but they had never really believed that God would do miracles. And it was at that time my dad just decided to read the bible for himself and when he read the bible and the gospels, he saw that you know God is a good God. And everywhere Jesus went he healed people, he helped people, he lifted people. And it just sort of set him on a new path.

And my parents simple faith, they just said God if you did miracles in the past, you can do it today and we ask you to, you know, do a miracle for our daughter. And Pastor Bobby, it didn't happen overnight, but they just kept thanking the Lord for touching my body. I had no muscle tone. I couldn't move my limbs, I couldn't lift my head. My mom had such a hard time feeding me because I had no sucking reflexes. But within just a few weeks and months, they began to see change in me and by the time I was one year old, I was completely well. And the pediatrician always called me the miracle girl because she knew what a miracle it was.

BS: That's amazing. You know and it's so much hope for even like Hannah and I. You know we have struggles with our own son. And we've been learning, especially from your mom, to pray with faith, not with fear or any of these things. And of course we don't always get the things that we want exactly the way we want, but it's so true. Faith pleases God and prayer changes things.

LOC: It does. It does. It really pleases God and with him all things are possible. And I think we need to learn to ask big, you know? And expect God to do super natural things in our life. He can add his super to our natural and his grace is sufficient, you know, for the things that we go through.

BS: And you know that's one thing that we teach a lot here. You know many traditions teach that the Holy Spirit stopped doing things; that miracles were just in the age of the Apostles, and you know in our church we totally reject that doctrine. We don't see that anywhere in scripture, and in fact in my own experience, I've seen God do tremendous miracles in people's lives, and so have you.

LOC: Oh yes. It's amazing what God has done.

BS: This leads in large part to why the Osteen's are so known for being positive, right?

LOC: Yes.

BS: I mean you guys are.. this is something you really believe in.

LOC: Yes.

BS: And it's a big part of your message.

LOC: It is. Because we know, we found out that God is a good God and he's for us, he's not against us, and he has an awesome plan for our life. And we also realize that sometimes we used to blame God for the things that the enemy, Satan, did in our life, and I think that when we learn that God is a good God, and Satan is our enemy, and we have authority over him, and that God wants to give us an abundant life.

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It doesn't mean that we're not going to go through trials, because we all go through trials, but it does mean that he's going to help us through those trials and he's going to bring us through the valley of the shadow of death. And you know I found in my own life that he brings us out better than when we went in.

BS: Yes, that's right, those experiences train us. And of course a lot of people go well, you know, you're Lisa Osteen-Comes. What could you have gone through, and yet you guys have been under so many challenges. Your mom had a major health scare, obviously the death of your father. And of course in 1990, tell us, there's something that happened in the mail.

LOC: Yes, well you know because my dad was on television, we received a lot of mail and it was my job at the time at the church to open my parent's personal mail. And it was not unusual to receive gifts of books, bibles and things like that. And I don't know why anyone would target my dad because he was not controversial, but this one day we received a package about this big and it was like a shoe box, and it was addressed to J.O. And I picked it up and it was very heavy and unusual, and I picked it up and put it down three times. And then I just finally set it in my lap just like this, sideways. And little did I know I was about to open a mail bomb that had been sent to my dad.

And when I opened that last piece of tape, Bobby, it exploded in my lap. And I thought I was dying and I said to the Lord, I said Lord am I dying? Is this death? And it was so neat because in that time, I had perfect peace. I'd talked to God. When you know Jesus, you don't have to fear death. But when I said those two questions, I actually came to my senses. I was standing six feet away from my desk. My clothes were smoldering. I was injured and I was able to run out and call for help. And I screamed 'a bomb exploded in my lap.'

Well to make a long story short, I should have been dead. And that bomb actually exploded to the side. The paramedic on duty said to my dad, "Pastor Osteen, someone had to be standing between you and your daughter" because there were ten inch nails in it, there was shrapnel in it, and I was wounded on my leg and my abdomen. The doctors thought I was going to be in the hospital for weeks and weeks, but I was out in 13 days. God did a miracle. And you know it was all over CNN Headline news and we were able to say you know God did a miracle for us. We gave the glory to God. And you know I just kiddingly say that, you know, I almost got destroyed by a bomb, but now I am the bomb!

BS: Great! It really is a miracle and your family, I mean getting to know you guys personally, there's just one miracle after another. I mean tremendous challenges that you faced. All sorts of people coming at you and you just kind of turn a deaf ear to it and you continue to do what God has called you to do and God continues to bless your work and your ministry and we love you guys.

LOC: Thank you so much.

BS: A lot of this is in your recent book and I really want to encourage you to check out this book, if you have a chance. It's on our website. It's called You Were Made for More: How to become all God created you to be. And this book means a lot to you, doesn't it.

LOC: It does because I really was very open and transparent about the things that I've been through. And something that you know I didn't talk about for awhile and that was a very unwanted divorce that I went through when I was young, just out of college. And you know, Pastor Bobby, I thought my life was over. I wanted to be in the ministry and I didn't know exactly.. I thought I'd be a pastor's wife like you know, like my mother was. We loved being in the ministry.

And then I went through this divorce. I was depressed and discouraged and I thought my life was over, but you know I just found out that that's not the way God thinks. And so he healed my broken heart, and I always say he gave me a new and improved husband this time and we have been married 25 years and even that.. we have three wonderful teenagers, but even through that now, I'm able to turn around and say if God brought me through divorce, he can bring you through whatever you've gone through. And I believe God has used it to heal broken hearts. And it's such an honor for me. So I shared that in my book, too.

BS: Well great, Lisa. Well you know there are people listening all over the world and we're just so grateful. If you had one last word for that one person sitting at home watching on television or that one weary heart that's here today, what would you say?

LOC: Oh yes, I would say don't ever give up because God is on your side. He's with you, he's for you. One of my favorite scriptures is 1st Corinthians 10:13 that says, "God is faithful, and he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you're able to bear, but he will, with the temptation, provide a way out." And one version says he will provide a way of escape. And so many times we feel trapped, we feel stuck, we don't see a way out, but you know what, we're not the way maker. God is.

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BS: Yes. That's right.

LOC: And he said he will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you're able to bear. Now sometimes I feel like he's pushing it, you know, and it's like oh how much more can we take. But God is faithful and he will bring you out if you'll just keep your eyes on him. And just keep holding his hand and saying God, I'm going through it with you.

BS: Yes, thank you, Lisa. You know we don't do this often, but would you be willing to pray for us and pray for the many people that are just saying Lisa, I need a breakthrough.

LOC: Oh I'd love to do it. Father, in the name of Jesus, we thank you for the beautiful people that are here, that are watching on television. Father, you know what they're going through. You know the hurts, you know the pain. And Father, I thank you that there is nothing that can keep them from you or from living a victorious life.

And right now I speak life into their bodies and into their souls and into their spirits. And Father, I pray that this day you will set them on a new path, the path of victory, and that from this day they will move forward in their life and they will do all that you put in their heart to do, in Jesus' name, amen.

BS: Amen. Lisa, thank you so much for being here today.

LOC: Thank you.

BS: God bless you and..

LOC: God bless you.

BS: ..God bless your ministry.

LOC: God bless you. Thank you.

### COME VISIT/TWITTER/DECLARATION – BS

BS: Thank you for being here today. We're so honored that you're here to worship with us. And thank you for all of you who are watching on television. We just want to say to you that we believe you are watching for a reason. If you're ever in LA or Orange County, come down to Shepherd's Grove. I want to meet you. I want to shake your hand. I want to say hi. I want to pray for you. If you have kids, bring them. We will teach them the things of God.

And then if you're watching, follow me and comment on Twitter. I actually respond to everyone at least once. When I'm at In-N-Out or something like that, and I need something to do, I will be responding eventually to everyone who Tweets.

Okay, would you stand with me and we're going to say this confession together. Hold your hands out like this as a sign of receiving. Take a deep breath. That's good. All right. I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share his love with the world. That's good news, isn't it? Have a seat.

### MESSAGE – BOBBY SCHULLER "You Don't Have to Worry – Trust Jesus"

If you're here today, if you're watching today, and you just got a really bad health scare, for you or for a loved one. Maybe today you got some really big challenges in your finances. Maybe you lost your job. Maybe your student loans are getting crazy. Maybe you're here and you say I used to be happier. I remember a time when my life was somehow easier and more exciting, and now I feel like my life is worn thin, and that I'm just surviving. If this is you, God has a word for you today. (SONG PLAYING – "Don't Worry, Be Happy") You know, when I was a kid, we had this little boat. Turn the volume up. We had this boat, it was a little fishing boat. And we had all these challenges and we had this little boat and it was called "Be Happy." And every time we would go out fishing, you'd have all these waves, and even as a teenager, there are things you'd worry about, and we'd play this song and we'd leave this little launch pad on this tiny little boat and we'd go out along the coast and you just watched as everything melted away. And we had this song in our head. Sing it with me ("be happy"). There is something about these words. I know you think this is not a Christian song but this is inspired. Don't worry, be happy. That is as true as anything can get. Thank you, guys in the back. Today we are going to talk about how all of us have something we could worry about, right? But there is nothing more than worry, anxiety that cripples your life and takes away your happiness and joy. And so today no matter who you are, I want to tell you no matter what you're going through, don't worry. Don't worry. God has it under control. Did you know God loves you as much as he loves Jesus? Did you know God gave Christ on the cross for you and that you were worth it in his eyes? Did you know that God treasures you and will keep you safe?

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Trust in Jesus and you don't have to worry about a thing. Troubles will come, troubles will go, but worry is not going to help you one way or another. Worry is never going to help you, so trust the Lord and be happy.

You know we live in an anxious world, very anxious world, and especially when you live in a place like LA or New York or metropolitan area; the bigger the town, the bigger the anxiety. There is something about the pressures of life that have caused our whole world to be robbed of joy and gentleness and slowness and even beauty. Many of us every day we wake up stressed and we go to bed stressed. We need coffee to wake up and we need pills to go to sleep. We are constantly working at our jobs, stuck in traffic, never present, always thinking about tomorrow or thinking about something yesterday, worried about the bills, and all of these things are poisoning our joy, our walk with God, our faith, and all the while you don't need to worry. You can trust God. You can smile today because everything's going to be.. it's going to be all right. That's the word from God for you.

You know our world is training you to be worried. Did you know that? Almost everybody wants you to be worried because they benefit. Businesses want you to say oh what will people think of me unless I buy that car? What will people think of me unless I buy those clothes? And so the more you worry about products and the things you ought to own, the more businesses flourish and thrive. Politicians love it when you worry. In fact I'm almost convinced that most politicians' job is to be the one who makes people worry the most. I think they're convinced that if they can get you to worry more than anybody that they're going to get your vote. Worry about climate change! Worry about violence. Worry about wars and worry about crime. And worry about taxes. And worry about big government and worry about little government. And worry about him, and no worry about her! Worry and vote for me.

Obviously there are things that are important in the world. And you want to be responsible. We want to do what's right, but you don't need to worry. It's going to be okay. This is the Father's world. So politicians benefit when you worry, and guess who else benefits? Religious folks! I'm sorry to cue you in. Religious folks. Lots of pastors like it when you worry. And news likes it when you worry. And everybody likes it when you worry because they benefit. Guess who doesn't benefit when you worry – you. You and the people who love you and the people that have to live with you. All right?

Now everyone benefits by you worrying and so people are training you to be a worrisome person. They're training you to carry worry in your body and that's exactly where worry is located. Worry is the pervasive anticipation of evil. Worry is the opposite of faith. Worry is located in your body and today we're going to be free of it. You want it? Let's get rid of it! Let's stop worrying and let's be happy and let's enjoy every day, every moment, every breath God has given us.

We can stop worrying because we can trust that God's love is good enough for our inefficiency. God's love is deep enough for our lack. God's love is big enough for our sickness and even our death. That God's love blankets every aspect of our life; that we can trust him, and yes, we do not have to worry.

Did you know in the bible the most common command is "do not worry" or "do not be afraid?" In the word of God, the most common thing that is said is "do not be anxious," "do not be worried," or "do not be afraid." More than anything. Why do you think that is? Because worry, more than anything, will suffocate your spiritual life and cut you off from intimacy with God and others. Whereas faith and trust and rest and slowness will allow you to grow deeper in your faith with God.

The passage today was from Philippians, and I just want to read it again, even though Hannah did a spectacular job as always. She's so pretty. Philippians chapter 4 verse 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice." How often should we rejoice in the Lord? "Let your gentleness be evident to all." Did you know gentleness is a scriptural mandate, by the way, for all of you strict religious people? "The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your request to God." That word there for anxious is marantao. It's also the word where many psychologists, they poll for anxiety and all these things for psychoanalysis, but that word marantao or to be anxious literally means in parts or in pieces. Do you ever feel that way? You're like your life is in pieces. I got to do this and I got to pick up the kids and I got to drop off the dog and I got to pick up the dog and I got to visit my mom, and oh I forgot to call this guy and I got to get my report done by tomorrow, and then you crash in bed. You're in parts. Do you ever feel that way? Do not be anxious, is saying, do not be in parts.

"But in prayer and petition just bring it to God." And then what'll happen? Well, then the peace or the shalom, the wholeness: shalom or peace is the opposite of anxiety. It's a wholeness, it's a centeredness. "The peace of God which transcends all understanding."

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It's like it doesn't even make sense. It's a little crazy. It's not, though, because it's rooted in knowledge, "Will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

And then finally, Paul starts to sound a little bit like Norman Vincent Peale here: "Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy," think about all the bad stuff that's going on. No! Think about these things. Paul tells us don't be in parts, don't be scattered, think about what? What's true! What's lovely, what's great, what's.. may dare I say, positive! Focus on what's good in your life. And that will give you the hope and the confidence to not be marantao'd and not be in parts, to not be anxious, to not be suffocating, which is another of the Latinized root of this is to strangle you. Do you ever feel strangled with your worry anxiety? Stop it! Just relax and focus on what's lovely, praiseworthy, noble, true, and good, and watch as you change your thoughts as your whole world begins to change.

There was once two painters who were painting Los Angeles. And they were painting right next to each other. And one was kind of a happy guy, and the other was kind of a pessimist. And as you stood there and you watched them paint, they painted the exact same scenery but it came out very different. You look at one guy and you go wow, LA is beautiful. Look at that Hollywood sign. Look at those birds. You go to the other one and you're like wow, I didn't know LA was so concrete and smoggy and dirty. So you have two painters painting the same city, seeing the same thing but focusing on different things.

And this is a lot like what life is like. To say to focus on what's good and noble and right in life doesn't mean you don't see the bad things, it means you focus on the good things, and you bring those things to the forefront. Why? Because we live in the Father's world and we have hope. No, we have knowledge and faith, knowing that what is good will endure forever, and what is bad will be washed away, and that's very good news.

To become the kind of person that can let go of our worry means that we're able to do the hard work of seeing what is good in the world. And by the way, it is hard work. Being negative is easy. Being positive is difficult. Worrying is easy. Relaxing is the challenging thing. Friends, I am challenging you to do the hard work of being a positive, worry free person of faith, not out of stupidity, but out of knowledge knowing that God is faithful and he will come through for us and that we can enjoy today. We can be present. You don't have to worry about tomorrow. You don't have to regret yesterday. That is the gospel. Everything's going to be just all right if you have faith. Amen.

But it's not the result of trying harder it's the result of intimacy with God. When you get to know God and you spend time with him and you pray and you listen to worship music in your car and you spend time with people of prayer and people who encourage you and you spend time in the word of God, this will happen naturally. You'll begin to see through the lens that God created for you to see in the world you live in. You'll begin to have faith.

You know all of us have faith all the time. Everyone – atheists have faith. When an atheist sits in a chair, he has faith that that chair is not going to fall down. Am I right? We all have faith. And faith is rooted in knowledge so when I sit in a chair, most of the time we don't check it. Would checking it be logical? Yes. It would be, but nobody does it, right, because most of the time a chair is going to be just fine. You have faith when you get to a stoplight that the person is going to stop and not slam into your car and you do it with such ease. Why? It's not entirely logical, is it? I mean you would think that every once in awhile somebody would just buzz right through, and it does, but we don't really think about that, do we. And you have faith when you go to a restaurant that the food that that server is giving you doesn't have something weird in it, or that when you hand them your credit card and they disappear into another room they're not going on Amazon. You don't know. You have faith, right? We are practicing faith all the time. And our faith is rooted in knowledge. It's a perfectly sane thing to do.

Now here is what faith in the kingdom of God is like. It's like how many of us are when we get on an airplane. You get on an airplane and you're scared. And you buckle in and you just go. But you know so many people are terrified of flying. I think it's like one out of every ten people refuses to fly. And if they did, they would go nuts. And yet there is almost no safer place than you can be than in a commercial plane in flight. You're more likely to get struck by lightning twice and die both times than you are to get in a plane crash. That's true. You're more likely to die in a car accident 460 times in a row before getting in a plane crash once. You're more likely to die walking down the street than you are in a plane. And yet none of us are worried about those things, and yet we get in a plane, we get worried. Why?

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Because you're flying through the sky in an 1,800 ton chunk of metal going 900 miles an hour just below outer space. That is a little intimidating. And yet the truth is it's a perfectly safe place to be. And out of all of the things you do, whether you eat at a restaurant, or go to a stop sign, or sit in a chair, probably flying on a commercial airplane is one of the safest things you can do. And so if you're rooted in knowledge, you know you don't have to worry when you fly.

So many of us we feel that way in our walk with God. We're walking with God and we're expected to do these things, we're expected to give generously, we're expected to love our enemies, we're expected to live slowly, we're expected not to indulge in many worldly things and it feels like kind of a big risk. We're expected to do all these things and on top of that, we have all of these terrible things happening like sickness, and cancer, and car accidents, and kids die, and horrible things happen in life, and you're saying well I'm just supposed to not worry and just supposed to trust God? Yes, because we live in a world where those children, and those cancer patients, and those poor people, they're going to be saved. They're going to be okay because they live in the Father's world and he will make sure everything will be all right. It's not your job to solve everyone's problems. And in fact a lot of the problems that you have, you can't solve and it's your job to simply let go and allow God to catch you.

Great spiritual writer Henri Nouwen told a story about being with trapeze swingers. He was at a circus and he saw these trapeze artists flying through the air and he was absolutely mesmerized. And so he decided to go back to these trapeze swingers, he wanted to meet them and like get a picture, maybe a selfie with them. I don't know if selfie's existed in the early '90's. They didn't. Get to know them and he actually met them and they went out to a meal and these trapeze swingers invited Henri Nouwen to go on a tour with them for the next week. And so he did. And so they became good friends. And he was just constantly mesmerized by the grace and power and beauty by which these flyers went through the air.

And one day he was speaking with the leader of the troupe, Rodleigh, and he said to Rodleigh, this is amazing and Rodleigh looks at him and he says, you know the job for me as a flyer is to have complete trust in the catcher. Everyone thinks the flyer is the star of the show, doing all these amazing things in the air, but the real star of the show is my catcher, Joe, who has to have pinpoint precision and pull me out of the air when I'm flying.

So Henri says well tell me a little bit more. And he says the secret of trapeze swinging is this: the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. The flyer simply has to soar through the air and do all the things they want, and then reach the hands out, and the catcher will catch you. And Henri said wait you do nothing? He said nothing. In fact if the flyer tries to catch the catcher, that's the worst thing you could do because you could break the catcher's wrist or he could break your wrist, and then you're in really big trouble. He said the most important thing is that the flyer is supposed to fly and the catcher is supposed to catch, and as I fly through the sky, I simply reach out with outstretched arms and trust that the catcher is going to save me. That's faith.

The job of a flyer is to fly. The job of the catcher is to catch. And if you try and catch the catcher you're going to be in big trouble. That's faith. Faith is realizing that you are not as in control of your life as you think you are. But it's also recognizing that your life is not out of control. It's in the very capable hands of a very capable catcher. And if you want to fly in this life, you have to learn how to reach to the catcher with outstretched arms and know for sure without a doubt he will catch you, and he will. You can count on it. You can count on it every time.

And I already know the many challenges that will come from the realists in the audience. I know many of you are saying Bobby I have to worry. Somebody in this family has to be responsible. Look, you should be responsible; you should. Dallas Willard hated bumper stickers and the one he wanted to get rid of the most was "get up, stand up for your rights." And he said there should be a bumper sticker, it should say "get up, stand up for your responsibilities." Look, I understand. You ought to be responsible, but you can be responsible without worrying. Isn't that good news?

In fact, I want to challenge you that if you're the person that said 'but Bobby, somebody's got to be responsible,' what you mean is 'but Bobby somebody has to be in control.' And it may just be that you're the person who wants control, not only in your life, but in the people you live with. That's something you need to think about. You should be responsible but if you've been a controlling person, I want you to go to your family members, to your husband or your wife and apologize for trying to control them.

Some of you say well what about concern. I mean there are really bad things that are happening in the world. Yes, you can be concerned, absolutely.

## You Don't Have to Worry – Trust Jesus

Concerned is outside of the body but worry is inside the body. Worry is an addiction. People who worry, and I'm this way sometimes, when you're not worrying, you feel guilty that you're not worrying about something. So if you're not worried, you're like okay I got to go find something to worry about to hold me over until there's something that I should worry about. And then we'll group it together and then I can tell everybody about how worried I am about everything and then people will really see how responsible I am.

Obviously we should be concerned, obviously we should do what's right, obviously we should love what is good, obviously we should hate what is evil. Yes, that is the calling of good people is to do what is good and not do what is bad. God has your life under control. It's going to be okay. Because just like every story, there's always an ending and we are not there yet. Did you catch that? We're not there. There is an ending, and the ending for you and for me and for all of us who trust in Christ is very, very good. That's good news, isn't it? We don't have to worry.

So in the words of Charlie Brown, also perhaps inspired, worry won't stop the bad stuff from happening - it just stops you from enjoying the good. Can I get an amen? Worrying ain't going to stop the bad stuff from happening. It just keeps you from enjoying the good. Some of you say Bobby what about death? I was just told I was going to die, or I only have a few days left. Enjoy every day. Smile every day. Face your death with courage. And don't give up. God hasn't given up on you. Have faith. You're not dead yet. Trust in him. He will carry you through. And it's like Lisa said, and many others who have had near death experiences, you know when it happens you realize oh, that wasn't so bad. Evelyn, I'm sorry to pick on you twice in one day. I remember Evelyn shared a story about having a near death experience in her bathroom when she nearly died. And you thought you died and you went: why did we make a big fuss over my mother's funeral. This is not a big deal. Is that right?

I want you to know that no matter where you are with health issues, with money, with challenges, with your school, with your job, with your family, if you're going through a divorce and relationship challenges, no matter where you are, stop worrying. It's going to be okay. I promise. Have faith in God. Believe in the God who believes in you. Let your hopes not your fears shape your future. Everything will be okay. Trust in Jesus and he will sort it out. He's the catcher and you're the flyer. Just with outstretched arms believe and know that the Father will catch you.

Let's pray: I don't want anyone to leave here without an opportunity of knowing that your life is in the hands of the catcher. Many of you come here and you're worried because you don't know the reality I'm speaking about. And I want to invite you today to become a Christian and hand over your soul, your body, your mind and your life to Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of this world and the world to come.

And if you want to make that decision, pray with me. Say Father in heaven, I come to you in Jesus name. Forgive me of my sins. Fill me with your Holy Spirit. Give me the mind of Christ and save my soul in Jesus' name, amen.

### BENEDICTION - BS

If you need prayer for anything, there are people in purple lanyards in the back and I want to encourage you to leave now. Just go right out in the aisle and walk out and they'll take you to the back room and pray for you, for whatever. For sickness, for stress, for just today if you're having a tough day, or especially if you made a decision to come to faith in Christ, or any of those reasons, they'll meet with you and if you're a new believer, they'll give you a bible and I think my new book and some other things.

Thank you guys for being here today. You're always welcomed to come back to the 11:15 contemporary service. We'd like to see it more full. Its growing but we want to really see it packed so if you ever want to come back and visit, we want you to know that we'd love to have you worship with us there. And also come back tonight for the 6:00 service. Patrick is singing a concert tonight. It's going to be very, very good.

Thank you, guys, for being here today. And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you his peace in your coming in and in your going out, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus on that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning, amen.