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GOOD MORNING – Bobby & Hannah

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

HS: And (SPEAKS DUTCH) to our Dutch family that has joined us today. We're so happy that you're here. Such a pleasure to have you in the house. You know the apostle James said I will show you by my actions what faith is. Yes, church, let's show by our actions what faith is. You are loved.

BS: Yes, we're glad to have the Dutch visiting us today. That's what all the flags are about, and why we're just so grateful that a group of Dutch have come to visit us, who are all Hour of Power viewers, and we're just so glad to have you here in the house, so welcome again. We're missing Haven this morning. I took Haven and two of her friends to Disneyland yesterday, and they all had cotton candy, and then they had cheesecake, and then they bought some candy for one of their brothers, but then when I wasn't looking, they ate all of the candy that they bought for the brother so Haven woke up with a stomachache this morning and is unable to attend. So she'll be fine.

HS: Happens to the best of us.

BS: Anyway, let's begin with a word of prayer. We love you, Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit is here, and we pray in the strong name of Jesus that you would pour out your spirit into the hearts of every single person here who's longing for something more. Lord, all of us have within us a God-shaped hole that only you can fill. We trust in you, Lord, and we thank you that you love us right now, that your grace is abounding, that your mercy is great for us, that you gave your son for us that we could approach your throne boldly, and it's in the strong name of Jesus we pray, amen.

HS: Amen. Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

INTRO TO HYMN – Irene Messoloras

IRENE: (SPEAKS DUTCH) everybody. (SPEAKS DUTCH) On behalf of Hour of Power, welcome to our visitors. We are so honored that you're here today and we feel so blessed. Our opening hymn is As the Hart About to Falter, which is one of Dr. Schuller's favorite hymns, and in honor of your visit we will sing it in Dutch, the second verse. Won't you join us.

INTERVIEW – KRISTOFFER POLAHA

Nick Hall is an author and founder of the PULSE Movement. A noted evangelist, Nick speaks to the hearts and minds of our youth. His passion is to "awaken culture to the reality of Jesus." Through the PULSE Movement, Nick has been able to share the gospel with millions of students around the world. His next event, Together, will take place this Summer in the hopes of making Jesus known even more. Please welcome, Nick Hall!}

BS: Hi!

NH: How you doing, Bobby?

BS: It's great to see you again. I had the privilege of interviewing you and talking about things going on in the Ukraine with your team about three weeks ago, I think, on TBN, on Praise, but I'm so glad to see you again. It's been, I think, a few years since you've been here with us on Hour of Power. How have you been and how are things going since we last spoke?

NH: As everybody knows, it's been crazy the last few years. I'm here at our office in downtown Minneapolis. It's been crazy in downtown Minneapolis, it's been crazy across the country, but I just thank God that the darker it gets, the brighter the light of Jesus shines, and these are the days of the harvest.

BS: Yes, that's right, amen. A lot of people know you, but for those who don't, can you tell us about the PULSE Movement and what you guys are working on there.

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NH: Yes, PULSE is an evangelistic ministry. I was trained under people like Billy Graham and Luis Palau. My dad actually came to faith at a rally where Josh McDowell was the preacher.

But the PULSE started through my English paper as a college student, and since that paper, we've seen over three hundred million people hear the gospel, and in the U.S. alone, we've seen over a million young people respond to Jesus. We believe this is a revival generation, and we're planning outreach events and training events around the country and around the world to reach this generation with the gospel.

BS: That's awesome. One of those events is Together, right? Tell us a little bit about that event.

NH: Yes, so 50 years ago, Billy Graham and Bill Bright held the largest evangelistic training event in American history. It was called Explo '72; Keith Green was there, Larry Norman was there, Johnny Cash even showed up, and it really changed a generation.

This summer on the 50-year anniversary of Explo, we have booked the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas and we're saying God, we need you to do it again. And so we have young people coming from all 50 states, we have artists and preachers, everybody from Christine Caine, Francis Chan, Tony Evans, Josh McDowell, I'm going to be sharing the gospel, but the purpose is to train a generation to share the gospel and bring it home. We believe this is a new Jesus people movement, and we need to equip them now.

BS: That's awesome. I know that there's a lot of pastors like our old youth pastor, Laine Bartel, who had a youth group of like 2,000 people in Tulsa where my wife Hannah and I met, came to faith through Billy Graham. And it's interesting how those events, there were a lot of teenagers and young people in college or in their 20's who came to faith through those events back in the 70's or whatever, and now have these huge outreaches, ministries, or even businesses, or they're having influence in positive ways. And it's amazing when you reach a young generation how much of a positive impact it can have later for posterity.

NH: Yes, we really believe that. God did something in the, honestly in our past generation, our parents and grandparents, there was such a great move of God, and I know a lot of people watching this, maybe you're praying for the next generation. You're saying man, it seems so dark, and it seems so bad, and yet God moved back then. In fact, right here I have a magazine cover from Time 1966. It says, "Is God Dead?" And in 1971, the magazine changed, and it said the Jesus revolution. And so, in a short amount of time, God can flip the script. We know that throughout scripture, that His arm is not too short to save. In fact, even the television show The Chosen that so many have watched right now, Dallas Jenkins, the writer and producer of that, his name is Dallas because his dad's life was changed at Explo '72, and they named their son Dallas to honor the city where their life was changed. We're saying God, would you raise up a new generation, and the gospel does not return void. And so, if all of this has happened to bring us back to that message, then I say man, thank God for all the trials, all the hardship because I believe this is the greatest evangelistic opportunity maybe of our lifetimes.

BS: Amen, and you guys can check that out. It's going to be Together '22 at Pulse.org. Can you tell us a little bit, too now, Nick you've got ministries all over the world, but one thing that we talked about a few weeks ago was what you guys are doing in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis that's going on there in sort of a war-torn country. Tell us about how that's going and what you're experiencing there.

NH: Yes, as we know, the conflict continues in the Ukraine. Our team has had an office in Kyiv for the last eight years. We've had over a million young people come out in Ukraine. In fact, we had one gathering alone in the center of Kyiv, 400,000 young people gathered, and we've seen God move in that country, and yet, obviously in the last two months, we've had to kind of uproot everything, we've had to get people across the border, and I'm excited to share that the church is alive and well. Every week people being baptized, every week people coming to Christ. We've been working to set up shelters in Poland, in Hungary, and in different neighboring nations, and really just seeing the church come alongside, seeing more people come to Christ now than has happened honestly maybe ever in that country, as we know in the hard times, it seems that God always opens people's eyes. Seeing Russian and Ukrainian church leaders pray together, seeing the world rally behind the church of Ukraine and praying for peace, and praying for favor, and people honestly, the leaders I know there are saying man, as much as we need peace here, pray for the harvest because God is doing something now. Pray for our boldness, pray for our courage, and pray that we won't back down, that we will keep preaching Jesus, no matter what comes.

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BS: Amen. That's a great word. Nick Hall, thank you so much. We're excited about the Together movement through PULSE. You can check that out at Pulse.org, if you want to be a part of that. And I want to recommend you check that out. Thank you so much for sharing your testimony with us, Nick. We appreciate you and we're grateful for your ministry.

NH: Thanks so much, Bobby.

SCRIPTURE – John 10:1-5 - Hannah

In preparation for the message, John 10:1-5.

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”

Amen.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Whoever you are, would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord, let's say this together: 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. Its 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 my neighbor. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "You're Not Crazy, It's Just God Talking"

Yesterday, I had the privilege of giving a devotional to our Dutch group, who was here in the church, and I was riding my bike to church, which is a very Dutch thing to do, actually. I was thinking about what can I say, Lord, to these folks. I began to meditate on this, and by the way (BOBBY SPEAKS DUTCH). How's that? Great to see you guys. Welcome. We were talking with the Dutch yesterday, and this idea came to my mind as I was thinking about this thing that's bothered me a lot lately, which is the rising costs of weddings. I do a lot of weddings, or I used to, especially. I don't do them as much anymore, but especially when I was younger, when Hannah and I had no kids and I was about 27, and I was a volunteer at my church, one of the main ways I made money was officiating weddings. And the average person would give me about \$200 to do a wedding; sometimes it was more, sometimes it was a Starbucks card, in which I had to go home and apologize to Hannah – I'm sorry I was gone all day for a Starbucks card but would you like a cup of coffee. But this was one of the ways we made money. And one thing I've noticed as a minister lately is how expensive weddings are getting, and how families who are spending money, you're wondering can they really afford what they're spending this money on? And in fact, I googled it yesterday, and found that the average cost of a wedding now in Orange County, at least, is \$33,000. Remember, that's after-tax dollars. That's a lot of money. And I began to think about something else, that in an age of Pinterest and Instagram that people maybe are thinking more about the wedding than they are the marriage. Thinking about the wedding more than the marriage? And we need to have beautiful weddings, right? Hear me – beautiful weddings, lovely weddings, weddings are important, we should have weddings, they should be special. There's nothing wrong with spending lots of money on a wedding, but when you think about as a couple is preparing, the amount of time they spend talking about what will the wedding be like, versus what will the marriage be like, is disproportional. I thought about how this is sometimes true in our Christian walk. How very often when you hear sermons, they talk more about the wedding than the marriage, even from me, and I have to be careful about that. Because coming to faith, being baptized or receiving communion, these types of wedding type experiences for the Christian are important, but Christ offers us a way, a way of life. Eternal life isn't just going to heaven, eternal life is the quality of life that's made available to me, even if I'm suffering, even if I'm in a prison, even if I'm a multi-millionaire, or I'm down on my luck, or I'm going through hard times, whatever, that there is this thing within, eternal life, that no one can take from me. Today I want to talk about one of the most important parts of how to live in that life. Its only one aspect of it, but it might be the most important, or one of the most important parts of it. Jesus makes it clear that this is something every Christian should have, and that is hearing God's voice. Hearing the voice of the beloved, the voice of God that speaks to us right now, right where we are. God has a word for you today.

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And the word might come through me, but more than likely the word will come right to you, just right to you. Many of us, when we hear somebody who hears God's voice, we think of this guy. We think anybody who hears God's voice kind of not really holding down a job, he's not really.. this guy. The funny thing is oftentimes this kind of guy does actually hear God's voice because there's something weird about someone who struggles with mental illness that they have an openness to the things of the spirit. But the truth is that God loves to talk to everybody. And when I say He likes to talk to everybody, I don't mean just all Christians. Christians ought to listen to God's voice, but it's interesting how often in the Bible God talks to people who are not Christians or not in God's family. The most stark example is Balaam, who is written about in the Torah, who seems to be some kind of a.. almost a bad guy, and he has this personal relationship with God where God talks to him. Jesus tells us plainly that every member of God's family can hear God's voice and should hear God's voice. We often think, well the best way to hear God's voice is the Bible, and that is true, in some ways. The Bible is God's word. When the Bible is read, God's voice is heard. When the Bible is read aloud, God's voice is heard audibly. That's an old saying. But, may I just say also that the best way to understand a book is to get a commentary from its author. You see the Holy Spirit is the best Bible teacher there is. One of the best ways to read the Bible is to read it listening to the spirit as you read. Many people who read the Bible come away from the Bible using single Bible verses as bullets or arrows rather than taking the whole thing in context. Every epistle in the New Testament, for example, is a letter, but we don't read it like a letter. We read it like a legal document. We don't read it like Paul writing a letter to his friends in Rome, we see these chapters and verses that were added later, not by Paul, but by some other person hundreds of years later and we think that it was drawn up that way. Well, it wasn't. It was written as a letter, and the author wanted you to understand the whole thing in context. And that author was inspired by THE author, the Holy Spirit. If you're confused about a Bible verse, you ought to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through, and to listen to Him. And you might say to me, I don't hear the voice of the spirit. Well, hopefully today I can give you some simple ways to listen to God's voice. God loves talking. He loves talking to His family, He loves having conversations with His children, and it's one of the healthiest, most joy-filled ways to live a godly life. It's been an important part of my faith and Hannah's faith. It's probably an important part of yours, as well, and if you haven't talked to God recently, well it's time we take up the spiritual telephone and give Him a call. I remember when we were in St. Callistus in Garden Grove, and we were looking for a way out of our horrible lease. We were paying \$75,000 a month, and it was crushing our ministry. We could not afford it and we had no place to go, and when we attempted to buy the building, the landlords that we had a contract with, we had first right of refusal, said they had already sold the building and didn't inform us. We had a chance to actually sue that group, but we chose not to. We didn't think that was a good thing to do, or wise, or even Godly. We took it as a sign that maybe God had something else in store. And in fact, I got a call from Russ, who had been having a conversation with some people, including Scott, the former pastor of Irvine Pres, and said they might be interested in doing a merger with us, and this would really help us with our problem. I thought to myself, forgive me all of you Presbyterians; now keep in mind, I grew up Presbyterian, okay. I went to Hollywood Pres with my mom, I was a part of this denomination when I was a kid and I, in many ways, had a fond thing in my heart. But my reaction, when I got that phone call was.. and I wasn't really praying, but I did say this. I go: Lord, do you really want us to be Presbyterian? And I heard, not in an audible voice, but I heard a rebuke from the Lord: do not call unclean what I have called clean. I knew in a confirmation in my heart that it was God's plan right then and there in the car. I was talking in my car to Russ through the little speaker thing that goes through the cabin, and I just knew. And so what was funny is as we went through the process, you know, other meetings like this, things you really hope for, things you think are good, and I would be worried about it and anxious, and will it go through, and I need to talk to this person, I need to talk to that person. This process was so easy. It was easy because it benefitted everyone, but it was easy because it was God's idea. And so even when there were some folks sometimes from the Presbytery that seemed to make it difficult, they didn't need to, and there were things like this that were happening, I just didn't worry. I didn't get anxious about it. I just thought I don't know how we're going to solve that, but God's got an idea. I know because He just told me this is His idea. And sure enough, it happened, and we're so grateful for the merger between IPC and Shepherd's Grove. I know it's been a blessing to know so many of you who are part of Irvine Pres, and now I'm a proud Presbyterian. I actually really love.. I love our Presbytery, actually, and I love our denomination.

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My point is that that's a great example of how if you just listen to God's voice, especially in leadership, how you can approach difficult situations in a relaxed way. It's so much easier to let go and let God, as the old saying goes, when God just talks to you and shares with you what He's up to. Now unfortunately God doesn't like, it seems like, to tell us what He's doing. But sometimes He does, and when He does, that's really cool. So take it or leave it. But Jesus tells us plainly that as disciples, we ought to know the shepherd's voice. John chapter 10, Jesus says this: "very truly I tell you pharisees anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name." He calls you by name. "And leads them out. And when he's brought out all of his own, he goes on ahead of them and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." "But they will never follow a stranger, in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice. Jesus used this as a figure of speech, but the pharisees did not understand what He was telling them. Therefore, Jesus said again, very truly I tell you; I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I've come that they may have life, and that they may have it to the full." That last line is so important, isn't it? "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full." So often we think of the life that Jesus offers us as going to heaven, and it is. I always say that. But it's a life available now. It's the richness of God's life. It's the fullness of God's life right now, and it comes when we are His sheep, and we hear His voice. The funny thing about sheep is contrary to popular opinion, sheep are pretty amazing animals, actually. And they're quite intelligent. Most people think sheep are stupid, by they're actually not. Every study seems to indicate that those sheep are a lot smarter than your dog, for example. They're some of the smartest animals out there. Very intelligent, and because of their high intelligence, they're highly communal. That means that they love to be together just like we do, they love hanging out with one another. You can almost see when sheep are out at pasture, they almost look like friends out at work, or people baking together, or working together, and they're talking about what happened here and there, like ma, ma, ma? Ma. Ma, ma, ma. Ma, ma, ma. And you can almost feel like when you see sheep, like if you watch closely, you're like I can see why that kind of reminds me of people. Sheep are pretty intelligent, and they end up, it seems like in a lot of the stuff you read, that they're loved in many ways that like people love their own pets. Like the same way you love your cat or your dog or something like that, shepherds tend to really enjoy the sheep in terms of like being friends with them. And actually, the shepherd really almost becomes a part of the community of the sheep. But one of the cool things, and everybody back in Jesus' day would have understood this, is the sheep know the voice of the shepherd. I remember Ray Vanderlin once, who's a great Bible teacher, goes to the Middle East a lot, and he did a lot of work in the Bedouin communities, Arabic communities, and these Muslim shepherds who would go out, he would spend time with them. And so, he's with these kids because most shepherds are kids, a lot of times they're girls, and he would talk about how these shepherds would get together, and he said one time there were four shepherds with four different flocks. And these teenagers all stood around and they were talking for a while, while the sheep grazed in the pasture. And he said his anxiety started to go up as he saw like hundreds of sheep all start to mix together, and they started eating in the field, and all these kids like weren't even paying attention, it was no big deal, and this went on for like an hour where they all got mixed matched. And then as they leave, they're all like in whatever they were saying in Arabic, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, ba, bop, ba, ba, ba, ba, bop. And like all the sheep split perfectly between the four different shepherds and went their separate ways. Isn't that interesting? This is a little bit low quality audio/video, but I wanted to show you this in real action. A shepherd had some friends that were visiting and asked them all to call the sheep by name using the Danish word. I think it was Danish.. or Norse for sheep, but check this out. (VIDEO ROLL IN) Isn't that great? I love it. So the sheep know his voice. That's what Jesus is saying, I mean in a rural community when He's speaking to these people, they know that some stranger that calls out their name, they're not going to respond to it. They know the shepherds voice and when he calls, they come to him. They know. And they're a community, and in way, the shepherd is sort of a part of the community of the sheep, and he functions as the foundation for that community. And that's what Jesus says. He says I am the gate. Well that seems like a weird thing to say, doesn't it? But back in those days, very often in the desert, pasture is way off from where the village is, and so sometimes you have to spend the night out near the pasture. You don't have time to come home.

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And so it was very common that way out the shepherd would create sort of a faux small pen made of rocks and sticks and things like that, and then the shepherd himself or herself would be the gate, and she would sleep there on her side at the only opening of the gate, so that if some sheep started to wander off, it would have to like step over the shepherd. Jesus says I am the gate, and this makes sense to the people, that He's always guarding, He's always watching, He's always protecting. And if anybody tries to get through there, it's going to be a thief; that they always know the shepherd's voice. He also says that the shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Isn't that wonderful? That it's not like the shepherd is taking advantage of the sheep, he loves the sheep. And of course, it's a metaphor, right? God sees you as His children and He cares for you, but the relationship we have with God is very similar to the relationship sheep have with the shepherd. He loves you, He's for you, He cares about you deeply, and He's speaking to you now. And the problem is that hearing the signal of God's voice is mixed up with all the noise. We'll get to that in just a second. But I also want to talk about how important it is that we actually are a lot like sheep in terms of being communal, and how this is also important in our relationship with God. We are one of the few species; you wouldn't think that solitary confinement is now rightly being discussed as a form of torture. In prisons, according to our constitution, you're not allowed to do cruel and unusual punishment, right? We understand that. And so how to define what's cruel and unusual grows over time. And now we're starting to see that in a place like prison, which is supposed to be correctional, meaning that it's supposed to be therapeutic, it's supposed to help people become better. If you go to prison, it's supposed to be a place where you get sober and you maybe get some counseling. But too often we see prison as a punishment. It's like a spanking for grownups, or something. And yet that's really not meant to be the intent. And so, so often now we're discussing how solitary confinement, you see how it actually makes people worse. It makes them more violent, it makes them, in some studies, be more likely to commit crimes, or to take advantage of drugs or something like that. That makes sense, doesn't it, because we just need people. We need to be around people. It's almost like we'd rather be around awful people than be alone. I mean just look at so many of the relationships that many of us have had in the past. There's this fear of being alone. A wonderful video I saw recently of one of my favorite YouTuber's Mr. Beast. I hope he comes on sometime. It would be really fun. He's just a kid, but my daughter Haven and I, we get breakfast on Wednesday mornings, and we got donuts and we were eating our donuts and watching Mr. Beast together. And there was this challenge where Mr. Beast found this guy, who was one of his subscribers, and he was going to pay him \$10,000 a day to be in solitary confinement. But he got to have anything he wanted. You can see in this cheap screen shot I took on my computer. He not only has a really comfortable bed, he's got a picture of his girlfriend over his bed, who he's been dating for six years, by the way, which is not cool. And he's got a basketball court, he's got his pool table, he's got a massage chair, a bunch of exercise equipment, a drum set, you can see in the bottom left there there's a hot tub, which he uses. And he's literally going to get paid \$10,000 a day up to a hundred days that for a million dollars if he can go that long. And whenever he quits, he can take whatever money he has. And then they also hired a gourmet chef to cook for him any meal that he wants. The chef would wheel in these meals for him. And then every day he has to lose one thing, but the worst thing he lost, can you guess what it was? The one that really crushed him was the picture of him and his girlfriend. That was the one that killed him. And he said his favorite part of the day, just getting ten to 12 days in, even though they were bringing briefcases of cash in, his best part of the day was the day they took away stuff because he got to see somebody. It's a great video. I recommend you watch it because it shows that what so many of us think is important, these fun things, these luxuries, they are fun. They're enjoyable. But they're not as enjoyable alone. Doesn't matter how many video games, or basketballs you have, or whatever, when you feel alone, it's just not a great place to be. This is what I want you to get out of this that there's two things Jesus says here. One, that we're like sheep, meaning that we're in community. But two, we hear His voice. The second thing we can draw from that is I thought about this guy, and I realized that although it's not totally the best, that if you have a relationship with God, and you can hear God's voice when you're alone, you can experience something that Henri Nouwen called moving from loneliness to solitude. And some of you have experienced that in your life, some of you haven't, but there's this amazing thing that can happen when you hear God's voice, that when you're completely alone and you feel like you're really suffering, maybe you just lost a spouse or you went through a bad breakup or divorce, or maybe you just moved out of your family's house and you're living alone, or you have roommates.

You're Not Crazy, It's Just God Talking

But you're not close to them. Sometimes it's easy when you're going to bed, turning that light off, to feel just a sinking sense of loneliness. I want to encourage you that is one of the best times to reach out to God and to hear His voice and see how He can move you from deep loneliness to a deeper sense of experiencing His love in solitude. God wants to talk to you, and He wants to be with you. And even though we're like sheep, even if there's no other sheep around, you can always know the shepherd is standing by your side, and He will get you through what you're going through. Just super quick, I'll go through this. The first way that we hear God's voice, most people don't hear God's voice in English or their native tongue. I've said this a million times, but it's worth repeating, God has a language, and His language is knowledge. So when God speaks to us, we just understand. Just comes. And this is so important that when we try to hear God's voice, you'll find that you can explain it oftentimes in English or Dutch or whatever your language is, but really God speaks to most people through knowledge, and presses it like a stamp on our heart. If you don't know what that sounds like, one of the best ways to learn that is to begin to memorize scripture. Christians study the Bible more than they should and they memorize less than they should. As westerners, we're always wanting to study, study, study, but there's something meditative about memorizing. You have to say it over and over and over, and you find that any scripture, if you just keep saying it over and over, you're going to find things that are going to come out that didn't come out when you studied it and it imprints on your soul and it gives you a Biblical mind. It helps you begin to hear what God's voice and heart is like and that will help you distinguish the signal from the noise. Anytime you hear something, even right now as I'm speaking, there is signal and there is noise. Because we have a great audio crew, the signal is about 99%, and the noise is about 1%. But even if it was 50/50, the signal being my voice, and the noise being (MAKES STATIC SOUNDS) you'd still be able to discern my voice over the signal, it'd just be super annoying. And here's an example of that. Thomas Edison created.. some people say it was his favorite invention was the phonograph, and he actually recorded in 1877, speaking of sheep, he recorded Mary Had a Little Lamb, and it was one of the first recordings. Check this out. (VIDEO ROLL IN) Okay, how many of you heard it? How many of you caught it? So what you were doing there is you.. there was a lot of noise, the (MAKES STATIC SOUNDS) but you're struggling to find the signal through the noise, and the signal is "Mary had a little lamb whose fleece was white as snow." And when you do that, you're able to discern through everything out there what's coming through. And this is what we should do when we hear God's voice. You're praying, and you're thinking about your grocery list, and you're thinking about that thing that somebody said to you, or you're just bored, or you're not hear anything. And so, part of training your mind is to hear God's voice. Just like sheep, there's this way in which you train your mind; as a parent it just happens naturally. You train your mind to hear God's voice. And finally, when you hear God's voice, just make sure to test it. The first thing is, is it Biblical? If it's opposed to the Bible, it's not God's voice. Another great way to test it is to ask is this the heart of Jesus. Is this really God's heart. One way of saying that is like when you think of the fruit of spirit, anybody that's in the spirit is going to bear this fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness. That's one of the best ways to discern a church, to discern a message from any pastor or preacher you hear, to discern anything that you're hearing from a mentor, if it's not bearing spiritual fruit, it's probably not from God. Just clearly, is it love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. If it doesn't have those things, it's probably not from God. And then of course you're not sure, you can always just ask a mentor or a friend who knows the Lord. The most important thing, my friend, is that God loves to speak to us, and He loves to talk to you, and His heart for you right now is not anger or wrath. God has forgiven you; He's restored you; He's rescued you, and He wants to speak to you today. Let's listen, amen? Father, we come to you in the strong name of Jesus with open hearts, and we ask that you would speak to us this morning or this evening. Many of us, Lord, we want to hear your voice, and we ask that you speak to us and teach us what it means to hear you. Lord, we love you and we thank you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.