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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. Good morning.

HS: And hello visitors, hello church family. We are so happy that you're here. There is a saying that says never doubt in the dark what you have heard in the light. God's words to you are unchanging. You are loved.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much for your Holy Spirit. Thank you that Christ was crucified for us that we could come before your throne freely and with joy. I pray, Lord, that your Holy Spirit would fill us and help us to become more like Him in all that we think and do. We love you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

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

### SCRIPTURE – John 20,24-29 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, John 20, 24 through 29.

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Clint Gresham (CG) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Clint Gresham is a former professional football player who spent six years in the NFL. His struggles with mental health and depression led him to a place where only the Lord could provide peace. Since then, he has become a speaker and author who aims to inspire people on becoming who they are meant to be, and to enjoy the process of transformation.

BS: Clint, hi!

CG: How are you?

BS: So nice to meet you.

CG: It's so good to be here with all of you.

BS: Let me just begin by saying I wish everybody could shake your hand. The only other time I've shaken someone's hand like yours was a guy named Niko, he was a Samoan guy who used to work for us. He caught a piano. We watched him. It was amazing.

CG: He caught a piano.

BS: Yes.

CG: Okay.

BS: He's a huge guy. Shaking hands with you is like shaking hands with a bear. Its awesome. Anyway, you played for the NFL, very successful. You're wearing your Super Bowl ring right now. That's pretty cool, from the Seattle Seahawks.

CG: Yes, I've got my Super Bowl ring on. It's not comfortable to wear, which sounds like such a pompous thing to say – my Super Bowl ring sure is uncomfortable, right?

BS: And you should have two, really. Let's be honest.

CG: I should have two, yes, but we're not going to talk about the Patriots and how we should have ran the ball on the one-yard line when you have the best back in football, but this is how it goes.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

BS: It is what it is. So you were a snapper for the Seattle Seahawks, obviously. Tell us a little bit about your story and your faith journey

CG: Yes, I grew up Episcopalian and I grew up believing that God loved me. I wasn't sure that God liked me. And my parents got divorced when I was eight years old, which led to a whole series of all kinds of issues that happens when you have a fracture in the family. And from that point on, I found myself constantly looking for something to fill this void that I had in my heart to make me feel like I was enough. And sports became a father to me, in a sense. And sports are wonderful; I'm all for sports, but they are terrible fathers. They give you identity, and they give you affirmation, but they make you perform for it. And so it's a twisted father, and that's what it became for me for a long, long time. And it wasn't until I got into the NFL and discovered a new found relationship with Jesus that I realized that it has nothing to do with what I do. It has everything to do with what He did for me, and that I can just sit back and rest in that.

BS: That's awesome. How did you actually come to.. so you actually came to faith while you were in the NFL then?

CG: Well, it was right before I got into the NFL, actually. It was my senior of college. I actually moved out to Orange County for a month and I took a discipleship class at a church out here and it radically changed my life.

BS: Which church, by the way.

CG: The Rock in Anaheim.

BS: Oh, The Rock, sure, yeah it's a great church.

CG: Yes, Jerry Dirmann, he changed my life. I got to see him yesterday, actually. And I flooded myself with the word of God, and it removed all the worldly influences you could possibly have and the word changes your life. If you give attention to His word, it will change you, and that's what happened to me.

BS: I think that's a gift isn't it, that you came to faith just before the NFL. I mean there are a lot of ways a young life can go sideways, especially at a young age with all the money and glory and everything else. Do you feel that way? Do you feel kind of lucky almost?

CG: Yes, I do, I feel so fortunate. I tell people all the time that the NFL is going to make you decide the man that you're going to be and I was fortunate enough to.. I also had a community outside of football. I was a volunteer Young Life leader, which if you're not familiar, it's a volunteer organization to mentor high school kids, and that was my world. I mean I was a football player, but I really worked for Young Life. And so we were having our Bible studies in the Seahawks locker room and I was taking kids to camp every summer. And having an encounter with God before I got into the NFL and then having a life outside of football just grounded me. It was really refreshing to find that a lot of these kids that I was mentoring, the fame and the glory sort of wore off after a while. In fact, one of my favorite memories was I took this one kid up to camp up in British Columbia and he told me, Clint, you're like a dad to me. And when he told me that, that made me realize that the work that I was doing there was something to be.. something to be.. just an incredible experience.

BS: That's awesome. You really love to encourage everybody, right? You want to help people kind of like become their own best selves, their own champions. I mean with Christ at the center of it, but you're really into inspiring people, right? How do you do that? It's probably easy for people to go okay, well you were in the NFL. I'm not, whatever, six five, 230 pounds or whatever you are.

What would say to people now who are kind of finding themselves in a rut. I think there are a lot of people, especially after COVID, that maybe lost their job and they are just struggling to get back into the pace of doing well again.

CG: I mean I would say that all it takes is one word from God to change your life and the more that we can sit in His presence and be with Him. I mean, I'll be the first to admit that COVID.. the toll that it took on our family, we were isolated, we were alone, my wife was going through a very, very difficult pregnancy, I had mentioned that I struggle with mental health problems, which is pretty much par for the course for a lot of former athletes, especially football players when it comes to head trauma because the symptoms of head trauma are mental health problems: PTSD, depression, anxiety, insomnia, all these kinds of things. And I found that I am not going to be able to serve my family the way that God has called me to serve them unless I'm getting filled up. And that means that I have to push past my flesh every now and then that says I just want to lay in bed, that says that you've done enough already. I want to be an asset to other people, and the only way that I could be an asset to other people is if I'm being filled with the word, and then giving that away.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

BS: It's a challenge, isn't it. I mean I think like if you're in the Super Bowl, I mean in any football game, but especially the Super Bowl. We got lights in here, but the lights in.. I can't even imagine what it's like being on a field with whatever it is.. tens of thousands of people, millions of people watching on TV..

CG: Hundred million.

BS: ..hundred million people, yes. Biggest television event in the world. It's a national holiday, really, in America. Even people who don't watch football, go to watch the Super Bowl with all of their friends, and so people are watching you, you're in a critical position, a snapper, and then you win or lose, there's highs and lows, and then you wake up the next day in bed, and especially if you struggle with depression and things like that, it's got to be those incredible highs and incredible lows. What is it like waking up the next day, and do you have those like kind of low experiences sometimes after?

CG: Yes.

BS: Yes, sure.

CG: Yes, absolutely. After we won Super Bowl 48, a couple days later we had our Super Bowl parade where we went through downtown Seattle, there was one point one million people in downtown Seattle, and we were driving through the town in this parade, and then the next day it's like I'm going to Starbucks. And it's like this is such a weird dichotomy. And I mean the best word that I can say for it is that it's surreal, and it doesn't last long. And so because it doesn't last long, I can't put my hope in this. And I'm fortunate, again, that I got saved before I got into the NFL because I've got friends that are my age, guys that are younger than me that are now out of the NFL and their lives are an absolute mess because they latched onto that identity that was very, very alluring, and you get the praise and the affirmation and all this stuff. Whatever it is that gives us the greatest sense of significance is going to be our default identity. That's what I wrote about in my book. And whatever it is that we are putting our trust in that is not in God, that could ultimately be taken away is going to build our lives on something fragile and that's when you can see a collapse of a life and so I'm fortunate that Jesus got ahold of me before then.

BS: Amen. Your book is awesome. Tell people about it. It's a great book.

CG: It's called *Becoming*, and it's right outside. You can get it on Amazon, my website [clintgresham.com](http://clintgresham.com). And the reason I chose the word "becoming" is because that word is an adjective and a verb. We're all becoming something but to be becoming is to be attractive.

And so what does it look like to like who you are when you haven't become the person you feel like you're supposed to be. Sort of this aspirational pursuit of embracing the process, embracing the challenges of life, because who we want to be is always on the other side of the thing that we least want to address. And if we can confront those things, God will do a miraculous, miraculous work in our life.

BS: Amen. Clint Gresham, thank you so much. What a gift you are. We appreciate you. Thank you. God bless.

CG: Thank you. God bless.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with me? 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. 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 my neighbor. Thanks, you can be seated.

### MESSAGE – You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

Today I want to talk about the importance of belief in taking things from the realm of the impossible to the realm of reality. But before we talk about good works and achievement, and all the things we hope to do in our lives, we have to start with salvation, which is a proper outcome of belief in Jesus Christ. I want to invite you this morning, as I do every single Sunday, to make a decision to give your life to Jesus Christ; to submit to Him completely, and to just know that by simply saying yes to Him, you can be washed clean of your past. All of us have made terrible mistakes, we've done things that we regret, we have things that we feel guilty and ashamed about, but God wants to make you a new creation. It's a real miracle that happens when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you to make that decision today, because the good works and the achievement and the great goals that I do want you to accomplish, really they happen best when they're under the power and peace of God. I want you to have that gift today. It's the best thing that can happen to you.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

If you want to make that decision, just quietly, wherever you are, just say in your heart – I invite you, Christ, into my heart and you'll be saved. Do that and if you make that decision, I want you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen so we can pray for you. And if you're not here, maybe you're in some other town, I want to encourage you to plug into a Bible believing church and to get involved. I want to begin with a story Ed Mylett tells about his father. Ed's father was an alcoholic until he was 15-years-old, and many times his dad tried to quit drinking, and he'd have these little periods of sobriety, but then he would get drunk again. He talked about how violent and harsh his dad would get when he was drinking. He said he counted at least 40 times that his dad got in an actual fist fight, an altercation with someone in traffic, or at the bank or grocery store, or someone at one of his baseball games and how even at times he would attack him, Ed. And so he learned as he got older, closer to 15-years-old, that my dad, when he's drinking, is someone I should be afraid of. And he started to learn these patterns that kids of addicts typically learn, and he said like one thing that you know is when dad comes home and he struggles to get the key into the keyhole, that you know he's had too much to drink and you want to hide or stay out of sight. And when he was 15-years-old, Ed's mother said to her husband "you get sober, or you get out." And he did. He told Ed, hey I'm going to go away for a while, I'm going to get some help, but when I come back, I'm going to be sober. And when he came back, he was sober, and he said I'm going to stay sober. Ed said to his dad how do I know this time it will be different than the last. I want you to promise me you'll be sober the rest of your life. And Ed's dad said I don't know if I can promise you that I'll be sober the rest of my life, but I can promise you this: I'll be sober until tomorrow. And he said that every day for 35 years until the day he died. He never drank again. He didn't think about being sober the rest of his life, he thought about being sober one more day. And the reason he was able to do that is because he knew this time he had a big why. Isn't it amazing when this happens in someone's life, something just snaps in someone and they just decide I can do this. Maybe I can't do it forever, but I can do it one more day forever. And it's an interesting story because you hear the story about a father who goes from being an actual villain to his greatest hero. Well, a lot of us, we think I made these horrible mistakes, I've had all these problems, I can never redeem myself. You can. Your life can be different than it is today. Your life can be completely different than it's been up until this moment. It happens when you make a decision that just one more day you're going to give it all you've got. One more day you're going to become the person you were called to be. One more day you're going to take a step closer to the dream, the vision that you have for your life. God wants you to hear this message because He wants you to become all you were created to be, and that's my prayer is that today you'll hear what I'm saying and you'll never be the same again. It all begins with belief. Belief. Faith in something that's a bit abstract, something that you can't see, something that's kind of like this picture I have, it's not totally crystal clear, but I think I know what it is, and making that belief become a reality through the power of Christ. Today we read the scripture from John chapter 20 about, I hate this term 'doubting Thomas' we call him. Poor guy. As if none of us have doubted. The reason I don't like that doubting Thomas gets the name "doubting" is because he seems the bravest of the bunch, even braver than Peter. I don't know if you remember but a few chapters before this, Jesus says I need to go to Bethany and then Jerusalem, and all of them say you can't go there, they'll kill you. Remember what happened last time? And Thomas says let us go with Him that we may die with Him. So then after the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples, but Thomas is out at Starbucks, grabbing coffees for everybody or whatever. And he comes back and they say we saw the Lord. He appeared right before us, and he says unless I can put my fingers in His hands, and my hand in His side, I won't believe it. Of course, the man is grieving. He's lost his rabbi; he's lost one of his closest friends. Of course, it's hard for him to believe. A week later, some time goes by, Jesus appears to them and He looks at Thomas, and I always think it's a joke, actually, when I read it. I think it's a little tongue in cheek. Rabbis are known for their sense of humors, even back then, and He says Thomas, put your fingers in my hands and put your hand in my side. Thomas doesn't do it, by the way, of course. He falls on his hands and knees instead and says my Lord and my God. And Jesus says you believe because you've seen, and then famously says, but blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. This is a catch for new Christians. This is something that a lot of people who are learning our faith, they don't quite understand. Like what is the deal with faith? What is the big deal about believing in something that you can't see so much. Why is it that there's this invisible thing. And I'm going to do my best to answer that question to the best of my ability. If you're an artist, it's probably easy for you to get because an artist is a creator. This is what creators do.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

Creators of any kind take something from the realm of what's invisible and they make it real. This building that we're sitting in right now once only existed in the realm of someone's imagination. Some guy or gal when they were asked design a church, went to a blank sheet of paper, there was nothing on it, and a pencil, and drew this place, something like this place, and out of that imagination and that team came a church, a building. Wow. And this is true of every great creation, every great symphony and sonnet, every great work of art, every statue, every chair, the pews you're sitting in, they all came from the realm of the invisible to the visible, from the realm of spirit or imagination into material; physical. Someone believed first and then they saw it. Someone had a picture of it in their mind or heart, and then they made it a reality. And this is what it means today to be a creator. Some Italian mother said I'm going to take this flour, these eggs, some water, I'm going to knead it over time and I'm going to make pasta, and out of nothing came pasta. And then that visible thing went invisible again when her son ate it. Stupid food joke. Okay here are some Biblical examples of things going from belief first and then you see. Abraham was told by God you will be the father of many nations, and your nation will be a blessing to the whole world, and they will be so grand they will outnumber the stars in the sky and the sands on the seashore. This is what He tells a 75-year-old man. And what does Abraham do? He believes and it's accredited to him his righteousness. Now not only does he believe, he believes for 25 years! That's a long time to tell your friends 'God told me Sarah's going to get pregnant.' You know by year 25, when you're a hundred and Sarah's 90, people think you're crazy. But he still believed, you see? He believed first, and then he saw. For 25 years. Moses was told by God 'go before the Pharaoh. Lay down your staff and it will turn into a snake. And then tell him, unless he lets my people go, the Nile will turn to blood.' Moses believed Him, and staked his life on it. If you go and you put your staff down it just stays a staff and you go oh no, he's a dead man. But it became so. The people of Nineveh, when the prophet Jonah came to them and said 'in 40 days Nineveh shall fall,' it would be so natural for those people of the greatest nation till that day, an empire that was 2,000 years old, that was the most powerful in the world at the time, to say your random God that we've never heard of will destroy our city? Then he goes get out of here. No! Nineveh believed! And they repented and they said who knows, maybe He'll relent if we repent of our sin, and they did and Nineveh was saved. The widow of Zarephath believed and then she saw. The Centurion believed and then he saw his servant healed. Hannah was told by the prophet that God would give her a child, and that night she laid with her husband. She believed and then she saw Samuel born. The bleeding woman believed in her heart if she could just touch the hem of Jesus' garment that she would be healed. She believed and then she saw. In all of these cases, and many more, they believed and they saw; they paired their belief with some kind of action and out of nothing came something. That's why faith is important. It is the core thing that creators, that makers do. They imagine, they believe and then they see. So much better to believe and then see, versus seeing and then believing. There's lots of examples where someone didn't believe until they saw, and then they believed. Adam and Eve didn't believe and then they saw that they surely would die if they ate of the tree. Lots wife was told God's going to nuke Sodom; don't be there. She didn't believe, but then she saw, only for a brief second. And Judah was told Babylon is coming. If you don't stop bowing down to idols, and if you don't start caring for the poor, and they didn't believe and Babylon came, and so they saw. So in this case, they see and then they believe. So much better to believe first, and then see. Can I get an amen? Let's be believers before we're seers. Let's be believers first before we see. Roger Bannister believed that a four-minute mile could be broken. For the longest time, athletes in the world, all over the Olympics, never thought anyone could run a mile under four minutes. One day Roger Bannister finally does the impossible. He runs a one mile in under four minutes and wouldn't you know it, this is the thing I love most about this story – right after that, a list of a bunch of different runners broke it. Why? Why? They didn't believe. Roger Bannister showed them it was possible, and this is human nature. This is human nature. Someone needs someone to believe and then see. Let us be believers before we're seers. You say well is it so bad to see? I mean think about the disciples. They saw Jesus first, and then they believed, etc. Seeing is fine; actually, believing first and helping others see is a great way to encourage people and inspire people the same way Roger Bannister did. But eventually you need to graduate. I assume that everybody in this room, or most of the people in this room or watching on TV have a relationship with God, that they have faith in Jesus Christ, but maybe you've been a believer for years. If you've been a believer for a while, it's time to move on from seeing. It's time to move on to believing. Maybe we can say it this way: seeing is for baby Christians. God understands when you're new to the faith.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

You need to see some things; you need to see some water part, you need to see some miracles pretty quickly, but as we get older, God asks us to be bigger than that, and to believe in more. To trust in Him. When we demand of God, 'I have to keep seeing, I have to keep seeing,' what we're really saying is I don't really believe. Imagine a wife whose husband, when he comes home from work every day, demands of her husband to see a list of everything he's done all day from morning to when he comes home. I want to see pictures, I want you to give me proof, where were you at this time? What do we say about that wife? She doesn't trust her husband. Maybe she has good reason. But do you trust God? And what of the boss who demands of his employees I need to know everything that you've done, and every minute, I need you to mark it down, I need to know to the time that you got to the.. the time that we.. there are bosses like this. What do we say of these bad bosses and bad managers, aside from the fact that they're bad. They don't trust their employees. You can see why a boss might do that a few times, at first, but eventually as he builds a rapport with his staff and team, eventually he would say I trust you to get the job done. Do we trust the Lord to get the job done? Or must we always see every day constantly, must we pound our fist on the table and demand a sign. Far better to be a believer. Far better to be a person of faith. Far better to see into the realm of imagination and spirit and invite into this cruel world beautiful, wonderful, godly and loving things, and that's what you do. That's what it means to be a believer. And here's what I want most from you today. There's a lot of things you can believe in, there's a lot of affirmations we make in our faith, but my guess is you've got enough affirmations. Here's something I want you to believe in. I want you to believe you can become more, and I want you to believe you can achieve more. This is what I want from all Christians. You've heard me say this before but I love big churches, I think they're great, I love it when people are here. I think the more people are at church, it's like the more people at a party, right. It just makes the energy go up. It's great. But God cares more about big Christians than He does big churches. One big Christian can accomplish way more than the biggest church in the world. We've seen it done in the past. Ever heard of a guy named Martin Luther King, among others? One big Christian can make a bigger impact than the biggest church in the world. Now the idea would be a big church full of big Christians and that's what we're trying to do here. But at the end of the day, it's the bigger Christian that matters. And this is the bigger Christian. The bigger Christian relies on Jesus Christ to expand their life and experience, and to show them the best way to live in a fallen world as a redeemed person. As a bigger Christian, you're able to have faith and believe before you see. You'll see. You'll see, all right, but you believe first and then you see the great things that God can do in your life. Believe you can become more. Believe you can achieve more. I often think of this idea of belief as like the stereogram. Now I've done this before, but this time I actually included the image. You guys remember stereograms from the 90's? They were very common when computers came around, they can make these 3-D images. And here you have the image, and then on the right I actually put the directions and the actual image of what it should look like if you can see through it. This is a 3-D image, but you have to look at it a special way. When I was a kid in the 90's and these came out, I thought this was a hoax. I thought my friends were playing with me. I saw them all pretending to see 3-D images and I thought there is no way. That is a two-dimensional modern painting or something. And then one day I finally saw. I tried all the tricks, I tried all this, but one day I was able to see it. And get rid of that. Nobody's listening to what I'm saying. I'll email it to you. Its two camels and a pyramid, by the way. Anybody see it? Did anybody catch it? You saw it?! Good for you. All right, that's my mom. Okay. So belief is a lot like a stereogram where you're like there's this thing, and some people can see it and some people cannot. And you can say it till you're white in the face and you can explain it to them, but until you see it, right? This is the gift that you have as a believer. You can see what nobody else can see. You can see what Roger Bannister could see – a sub four mile. There's something in your life that God's called you to not only see but to do, but you see it first. With your heart, I mean, and that is what I mean to believe. So first you believe in it and then you see it. And this creates a domino effect, that the more you create, the more you bring out of the invisible to the visible, the more you create confidence in yourself, that you realize God really can do something in me. God really can change the world through me. God really can make me a bigger person. I really can defeat this giant. I really can do better in my workplace. I really can lead, I can make, I can build, I can create. And the more victories you have, even with some losses, the more confidence you get. We call that a domino effect. That's a good domino effect. It's what happens when someone who's already learned three languages or four languages, they learn another one? No problem, right? I already know I can.. I already learned German and French, Spanish is a piece of cake.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

Something like this even happens in the spiritual realm. I remember when the Vineyard movement began, they really wanted to see the miracles from the Bible happen in the modern day. And they just wanted to believe foolishly in their own words, like with just reckless abandon. We just want to trust and believe that God can heal people today the way He did in the Bible. And so they began praying for elbows. This is an anecdotal story some guy told me; he was a part of this movement. And they got their first healing, and it was an elbow. And so they became like really good at praying for elbows. They prayed for nothing else, nothing else would get healed, but somehow elbows would. And then a knee got healed. And then a back got healed. And then cancer got healed, and they got bigger and bigger. But life is like this, both spiritually and in achievement. If you read a lot of biographies, especially of people in the industrial world, how common is it for someone to create some massive successful business, organization, make hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars, lose everything, they're broke, their family breaks up, and two years later they're billionaires again. What happened there? Is it luck? No sir. It's the domino effect. Maybe we can say it this way – competence increases confidence. You want to become a more confident person, learn more, grow more, practice more, do more. The more you do, the more you do, the more confident you'll get. Even when you fail. That's one of the great paradoxes I talked about last week, that the more you fail, the more likely you are to succeed, because you're a doer. You're a doer. There is something weird, too, about achievement. That I think achievement can help a person grow in character. Now it doesn't always do that. Sometimes people get caught in a trap of just whatever it is that they're into. But sometimes this really can make a difference where someone achieves enough, they start to get better at their goals. Here's one way of thinking about it. Imagine you got a genie in a lamp, and you rubbed the lamp, and out comes a genie, and of course first he sings the song – you got a friend me in. Not you have a friend, that's Toy Story. Ain't never had a friend like me, very close. Anyway. Sorry. And the only difference is this genie requires that every week.. you can have as many wishes as you want, but every wish is a year apart. So the first year you rub it and what are you going to wish for, 99% of people - money, right? If you're healthy. You wish for money. A billion dollars. A hundred billion.. all the money in the world. And then you got a year that goes by, and you're like that wasn't the best wish because your back hurts, or you get some kind of ailment, so what do you wish for the second time: I want to be healthy. Right? And then you're healthy with lots of money, but then you think well I just.. everybody's bothering me. And each wish every year would get better. You'd start praying for things like that children wouldn't go hungry, and you'd start praying for world peace, and then personal peace, and it would just get better and better until your final wish would be thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. And this is one of the weird things about achieving even superficial goals, and why I don't omit it from a sermon is because achieving even superficial goals shows you how much power you really have if you believe and stick to it. And the more you accomplish, the more you believe. Here's one of the biggest things in the modern world that now is getting in the way, especially of Christians, but of all people, is the trap of being defined by my problems. Let's say it this way. Never fall into the trap of being defined by your problems. If you go onto TikTok or YouTube and see stories of people, whether Christian or not, you're going to hear a sentence start with "as a." As a. As a minimum wage worker. As an ADHD person. As a person who experiences prejudice in this way or that. As a person with this chronic sickness. As an Angels fan. That's mine. That got a bigger laugh in the first service, guys, I don't know why. No. All of these things, are they not problems? Of course, they're problems. Are they real issues? Of course, they're issues. Do they need to be worked out? Of course, they need to be worked out. But the minute you begin defining yourself by your problems is the minute you get stuck in a trap. We don't want to pretend we don't have the problems. We don't want to neglect it, we want to see a better world, we want to see a better government and better all of these things, but at the end of the day, far better to define yourself as an overcomer, as a fighter, as a winner, as a Christian, as a champion, as someone who's capable, who's in power. The more you define yourself by your problems, the bigger your blame list gets. Blame list is a way of feeling a little bit better about not being where you truly know you should be. The bigger your blame list, the smaller your future. If you need a sermon to increase your blame list, there are lots of preachers out there who can do it. There are lots of politicians out there who will be happy to help you. I think every news station will be happy to give you any to increase your blame list as big as you want it to get. But let me make you a promise: the blame list only helps the people that are selling things to you. The bigger your blame list, the smaller your future. And the problem with it is, all the things on your blame list, most of them you cannot control. If you can't control them, that means you have no power.

## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

Here's the thing that we need to see today. Here's what we can control. Here's what we can control. You can control, you can focus on, and control who you become. That's what we focus on. Don't focus on your problems. Focus on who you can become and you can become anything, anything that the Lord says you can become. But you have to see it! You have to see it in your mind's eye before you see out here. You have to believe it before you see it. You have to believe it before you touch it. Michelangelo, the famous artist famously said: the sculpture is in the stone. He would just see a big block of stone; you would say what's the secret. He would say it's already there. The sculpture is in the stone and I just remove all the superfluous material around it so that David arrives. The sculptures in the stone. Its already in you. Its already there. Remove the stuff around and become all that you were made to be. This process is hard, difficult, arduous, and most of all, boring. That's the hardest part. Boredom. In a world full of so many interesting things. It's boring to go over the same thing over and over on the sheet music, or whatever it is you're supposed to do. Here's another way of thinking about it. The process is more important than the event. The process is bigger than the event. So often in life, all we see is the event. We see the Super Bowl victory, but we don't see all the practices that the guy has to go through, right? We see the person with all the money, but we don't see them knocking on doors trying to build their business. We see the person that's clean and sober, but we don't see all the times that they fail in their life; their family broke up with them or people abandon or they lost their temper. We don't see the process, but the process is so much more important than the event. In fact, if you're only blessed by an event, it's more likely that event will crush you. There was a recent study that was done asking people in America how they planned to retire. And it was something like 40% said that their plan for retirement was either to win a lawsuit or win the lottery. That was their plan! That's how I'm going to retire. So the first one is hopefully I'll break something and sue someone, and the second one was my one out of two hundred and ninety million chance of winning the lottery. That's about as close as you can get to zero, my friend. You know how slim one out of two hundred and ninety million is? You know how slim one out of a thousand is? You know if you flip a quarter and it lands on its edge, not heads or tails but on its edge, that's one out of six thousand. Okay? Your odds of winning the lottery are one out of two hundred and ninety million. Just don't do it. Don't do it. It's a waste of time. I know, I've been there before. When it got over a billion bucks, it was like the first time I'd ever played the lottery, I was like I'm going to try this. I just had a feeling. I just had a feeling. And I went down and I bought.. I was going to go buy 10 tickets, and I found out that lottery tickets are two dollars. I thought for the longest time they were a dollar. This is a while ago. Aren't they like three dollars now? I'm looking at.. nobody knows here and that's a good thing. If you know, don't tell me. Okay, on the rare occasion that some person does win the lottery, most of the time it ends up being a curse to them. It's a curse to them. About five years later, not only do they lose all the money, but their family is broken up, or they're addicted to drugs, and most of the time they're not only at zero, they skated way past zero into the negative millions. Anybody hear those stories? Why is that so common? Why is not every once in a while? Why is it so common? And now I'm going to say the most important thing probably of the whole day. Are you listening? Here's what it is: the money was bigger than the person. The money was bigger than the person. It was event. It was not a process. It was an event. Event. That's why it is so important that you become bigger than the money, bigger than the job, bigger than the challenge. If you get a picture of who you're called to become, and you devote your life to that, you can become all that you were made to be. I remember when I was at Oral Roberts University, there was a minister that came. It's one of these quack ministers, like me; I'm a quack probably. The minister came and he had all of us, three thousand or so students in chapel stand up and yell "money cometh to me now!" So all these students are yelling money cometh to me now. What is that? That is a belief in an event. And its rotten to the core. Satanic, actually. And actually, is such folly. It's a dumb thing to do anyway, but if you're going to have them do it, so much better to say, I don't know, skills come to me now! Mentors! Books! Challenges that I can barely accomplish, but still accomplish. Good friends that show me the way! Opportunity! Right? That's what we want. That's the thing that makes you bigger than the money, bigger than all the things that could otherwise be a blessing but will crush you. All right. All this to say, my friend, blessed is the one who believes before seeing. Everybody sees first and then believes, but you can be one of those who believes and then sees; who has the imagination, the faith, and the spirit to take something from the realm that nobody else can see and yank it out and bring it into this world. That is what it means, in many ways, to be a creator and to be in a part of an amazing life, and you can do it. So we ask it Lord, in Jesus' name.



## You'll Have to Trust God Some Day

Give us eyes to see, give us hearts to sustain, help us to be like Abraham, that even though you tell us at 75, at a hundred we see it come to pass, or sooner. And we ask it all in Jesus' name, 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 and give you His peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.