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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 friends. We are so, so happy that you're here with us. If you are going through a storm right now, I remind you that God is greater than that storm and He is with you. You are loved.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that your Holy Spirit is here. Thank you, God, that you're bringing breakthrough and victory, life, fresh vision to us right now, that wherever we are, Father, you can bring us out into new glory and new victory. 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 – 1 Peter 5,6-11 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, 1st Peter 5:6-11. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Nicki Koziarz (SG) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Nicki Koziarz is an author, podcast host, Bible teacher, and speaker who is very passionate about teaching the Word to others. Her new book, *Your New Now: Finding Strength and Wisdom When You Feel Stuck Where You Are*, helps readers figure out their transitional seasons by studying Moses's life and the seasons that he went through.

BS: Nicki, hi. Welcome. Thank you so much for joining us today.

NK: Absolutely. Thank you for having me.

BS: I like the name of your book a lot. It sounds like a promise – *Your New Now*. I think a lot of people are looking for that and you've written this book, it's based on the life of Moses, and it's also based on your own experience. Why don't we start there. Tell us a little bit about the in-between seasons of life and what led you to write this great book.

NK: Absolutely. So a couple of years ago, I was looking around my life and I just saw that everything was looking different, things were changing. I was waking up day after day saying things like I just feel so lost right now. I don't know where I belong, and seasons were ending, and seasons were beginning, and I found myself in this really messy, middle place. And so I sat down and I wrote a message that my soul needed, and it turns out there's other people that needed it, too.

BS: Well, what was the message, and what were you feeling like in that in-between place?

NK: Yes, so I was studying the life of Moses, and I realized that Moses is a beautiful example for us to look to in the scriptures from someone who experienced a lot of transition in his life. And I think that it is super important that we get behind people in the Bible who can teach us lessons about our struggles in life here and now today. So as I was wrestling through my own emotions, I was leaning towards the word of God to show me what is the solution in the midst of all this? How do I find contentment here and now and stop looking to the past and stop looking ahead and really just embrace this new now.

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BS: That's an interesting way to think about it, because I think a lot of times we do focus on the past a lot, because we can learn about it, and we do think about the future: goals and things we want to achieve, and we want that to kind of draw us a little bit, but very often we don't really focus on right now. Right now is usually not good enough, for some reason, because of the past or because we're not at our future. Isn't that kind of what you're talking about?

NK: Yes, we're so big on looking back on the good old days, or dreaming about days that are going to be better than what we're experiencing right here and right now. And I think we miss so much of what God is trying to teach us when we're constantly either looking back or wishing life away.

BS: I love that you use Moses. I understand a bit from the book what you're getting at, but tell those who are watching why is Moses such an important figure in thinking about these different transitions and phases of life.

NK: Okay, so here's what's so incredible about the life of Moses. Other than Jesus Christ Himself, in the scriptures, there's no one else that we could study from birth to death to the extent that we can with Moses and Jesus. And there's so many correlations between Moses' life and Jesus' life, and points to the coming of Christ. It's fascinating. I love studying Moses. And so when we look at Moses' life, it really is perfectly divided up into 40 years, 40 years, and 40 years, and when I was studying the text, I saw that there were really four different transition seasons that Moses went through, through his experience with God. And so I was able to kind of put a spin on things in way for us to be able to look at our lives through that same transitional lens through the seasons, and it's really been helpful for a lot of people, myself included.

BS: So tell me about those three phases. What do they look to you and how do they fit like our lives today?

NK: So it's actually four transition seasons that we see Moses go through. The first one is the season of development, and this is a place a lot of times we think about as a child. There are things that shaped us to become who we are today as adults, and those are important things, but God's not done with us just after we're stop being a child. We're constantly in a place of development. So that's one transition season. Another is a transition season of separation, and this one tends to be one of the hardest for a lot of people. It's when God literally separates us from someone or something. And then transition season number three is a season of cultivation, and if you love to do new things, you're going to love this season, and if you don't love to do new things, you're going to hate that season. But it is a time where God is cultivating something new that you're stepping into. And then the last season we see Moses go through is a season of being finished. And just because we're finished in one place in our life doesn't mean that we're finished like winding it up down here on earth, going home. It just means that that time and space in our life is finished, and there's a way to finish well, and a lot of people think Moses was a failure, but I actually think he really finished well.

BS: It's interesting to think about Moses' finishing. I think Moses thought he was finished before he really even started. And I think that that's an interesting thing because in Moses' day, we often, as we get older, we think I'm finished. My best life was in the past. It was when I was doing my career, or this or that. But Moses doesn't even see the burning bush until he's 80. And he's 120 when he gets through the wilderness. And so I think there's this part of his life, he'd already been a shepherd for 40 years, right? So he's like kind of in retirement mode, I think. But so often, it seems like God needed Moses to go through that 80 years of experience before he was ready for this huge, huge calling, right.

NK: I totally agree, and thankfully I don't think we have to go through 40 years of transitioning from one place to the next in our lives. I think it goes a little bit faster for us here today. But yes, you're exactly right. Moses was not a spring chicken when he began this massive assignment to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and he definitely tried to quit multiple times. We saw him argue with God and say I'm not able to do this, I don't want to do this, like find somebody else. And so Moses has a lot to teach us about what it means to persevere, even towards the end of our life.

BS: That's great. I really want to encourage you at home to get a copy of this book *Your New Now* by Nicki Koziarz. Nicki, thank you so much. It's a great way, a great lens to see these tough times we go through, always see them as negative things; so often they're positive things. And I really want to encourage people at home to get a copy of your book. It's a great work and we're really thankful for it.

NK: Thank you so much for having me.

BS: Thanks, take care. God bless you.

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### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

All right, no matter who 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: 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 – If You're Going Through Hell, Keep on Going

The spiritual life is a life that we're all called to. It's a life that all of us are already living. It's been said before.. how does it go? We're not human beings having a spiritual experience, we're spiritual beings having a human experience. And that's true. But not all spiritual things are good. Not all spirits are good, and not all of the spiritual experiences we have are good, either. And what I want to invite you to is the right kind of spiritual experience and the right kind of spiritual life. I want you to know God. I want you to know Him truly and fully. I want you to know Him deeply. I want you to know His words and His promises. I want you to know what it's like to wake up and go to sleep in His kingdom, to live with His purpose and calling. And the best way to know God is to be at peace with Him through Jesus Christ. Jesus makes a way for us to be there. All of us have a stuff in our past, stuff we go through in our present, even in our future. We have all these things - baggage that we move from one hand to another. All these doubts and fears. All these unfinished symphonies, undone projects, people we've lost. Christ can set it right for you. But you have to make a decision. Make a decision today. Don't put it off. Make a decision today to follow Jesus. He was crucified and raised from the dead so that you could be at peace with God. Would you invite Him into your heart today? Receive the Holy Spirit, receive the spiritual life, receive the life in Christ. I want to encourage you to do that today. You'll never be the same again. If you do that, everything that I'm going to tell you in the rest of today's message will be possible for you. That is if you're going through an incredible hell, difficulty, fire, challenge, setback, there's no tragedy God can't turn around. No challenge He can't get you through. No chain or burden in your life He can't break. No sickness He can't heal. He can do it all and He will do it all but it's your first step to follow Him and go where He goes. Let's begin with Winston Churchill, shall we? It's interesting, when we look at history, it's important to remember World War II comes after World War I. The most obvious thing I can say, right? But what we forget is how terrible and awful the first World War was for the whole world. War before that time had already been terrible and horrible, but not at this level. Before World War I, people would march into war in blue coats and white gloves and feathers on their hats. They had horses and cannons. They would load guns but it would pour the thing in and push the thing in and fire, right? And you had this gallant kind of feel to it. Now I'm romanticizing it a bit, but you compare that to what actually happens in World War I when people are being gassed to death, machine gunned to death, all the uniforms turn into camouflage and there's barbed wire and tanks and just brilliant, beautiful, young men being thrown at a meat grinder in the tens and hundreds of thousands over one inch of military mile. When World War I was over, the whole world was done. They never wanted to go to war ever again. And it was so awful the way that the war even started. It's hard to explain what it was even about. It was essentially just the assassination of one guy that led to this weird cascading effect of multiple alliances. And so after World War I, we forget that the whole world was done. Nobody wanted to go back to war. Because of this, we often like to dunk on Neville Chamberlain, the prime minister of the United Kingdom before Winston Churchill, who fought like crazy to keep peace in Europe. But by the time Winston Churchill had come to power, almost all of Europe had come under the evil grip of Hitler. And it was only two weeks after he came to power, France had fallen under German rule, I think it was about three hundred thousand British troops had escaped during the battle of Dunkirk, and it looked like almost for sure Europe was going to be a Nazi state. And when Winston Churchill came to power, not knowing if he would win, not knowing if they would get through, not knowing what would happen to Britain and the free world. It was interesting because before this, he was saying watch out for this Hitler guy. Watch out for this Hitler guy, and nobody was listening to him. And now he has to lead the mess. And he gets up and he says famously "I have not.." this is his first speech – "I have nothing to offer you but blood, toil, tears and sweat." Not something you want to hear from your prime minister, but it's the truth. It was reality. And here's what he said, famously, "If you're going through hell, keep going." Now we have the benefit of hindsight. We know that even though World War II was horrendous, we know that democracy won and the United Kingdom came through and all of those good things, but it came at an incredible cost.

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And today I want to talk about that for you. If you're going through hell, you feel like you're going through such a tough time. Maybe you feel like you've lost everything. You've lost someone. You've lost your health. You've lost your vision. You've lost your way. You've lost your senses. You just don't know where things are going. If you feel like you're going through hell, keep going. On the other side of hell, when you do life with Christ, how the other side is victory. Victory. Victory. It's on the other side. That brings us to our passage in 1st Peter chapter 5. Peter's writing to a church that is going through hell. People are being thrown into arenas, good moms and dads and children are being crucified and killed for their faith, people are being enslaved. It's a tough time. Peter writing to the church says "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand and he will lift you up in due" what? "Time." The word is time. That's the hardest part, isn't it. How much time, Pastor Bobby? God knows. "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." What does that mean? Let's pause there for a minute. Cast all your cares, all your anxiety on the Lord. What does that mean? You ever been going through a tough time, a difficult phase in life, a challenge, something you couldn't predict. You did everything right, but everything's going wrong, and you don't know why, and you just feel like you can't take a breath. You can't stop thinking. You can't sleep. You're tossing in bed. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to cast that on the Lord. The way you do that is you feel it in your body, you stop for a minute and you just say Lord, here is whatever – this thing, help me with this. I put this on you. I trust this with you. I know what your word says. I know your character. I know what your spirit does. I know you're the kind of God that raises the dead from the grave. I know you're the kind of God that heals. I know that you're the kind of God that provides. And you say to me, hold on Pastor Bobby, if I did that, I would be doing that like every fifteen minutes. Anybody feel that way? If I just felt stress in my body and paused and gave it to the Lord and prayed, I would be doing it every five/fifteen/ten minutes, once an hour. Here's a question I have for you. If you stopped every fifteen minutes because you felt that way and put it on the Lord, would your life go better or worse? Here's a promise: your life will get better, not worse if you do that, even if it's every five minutes. Here's a promise: you'll be more productive, not less productive. Here's a promise: you'll be smarter, not dumber. Here's a promise: you will sleep better at night. Here's a promise: God will come through for you and you'll begin to see that He's walking with you through the valley, through the darkness, through the difficulty. God doesn't take us from failure to failure, He takes us from failure to victory. If you're going through hell, keep going. Keep going. Peter keeps on going. He says "So be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, he prowls around like a roaring lion for someone to devour." Here's something that's obvious if you live in a place with lots of lions: lions don't roar before they devour. When an animal is hunting, it doesn't get louder, it gets more quiet, doesn't it. How many of you have been hunting before, and the deer comes in line, you've been waiting for hours in your special spot and everything's ready to go, and right before you fire, you go ROAR! Right? Who would do that? Ridiculous. You don't roar before you devour, you don't roar before you pounce. So here's what we see about this roaring lion. In Oklahoma we would say it's all hat and no cattle. In California we'd say it's all bark and no bite. All bark. It's roaring. Why would it roar before it devours? Why would it roar if it's hunting? It wouldn't. It's because the enemy really isn't a lion, he's a snake, and snakes are about deceiving, tricking. They're about fear, right? So this is what that animal represents. And this is who Satan is. He roars because he's trying to see who will be a coward, who will be afraid, who will give up, who will quit, who will give in to procrastination and fear, and all the things that consume every single person in this building every day. Who is going to fall victim in that way? Okay? And so what Peter says is just resist them. Stand up. Stand firm in your faith because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of suffering. And this last line, not super famous, but my favorite. Here's the point of it all. "And the God of grace who called you to his eternal life in Christ, after you've suffered just a little while, will himself restore you." Everybody say I'll be restored. (AUDIENCE – I'll be restored) Okay. That's a promise that's in the Bible. And He'll make you strong. Say I'll become strong. (AUDIENCE – I'll become strong) And He'll make you firm. Say I'll become firm. (AUDIENCE – I'll become firm) And He says and I'll make you steadfast. Say I'll become steadfast. (AUDIENCE – I'll become steadfast) This is the point of the crucible, of the fire of the valley. The whole point is that whoever goes in to the crucible does not come out the same way. Whoever goes into the fire does not come out the same way. Whatever you're going through right now, God can turn it for good IF you keep going. If you're going through hell, keep going! It's not natural, actually, for humans to keep going when they're going through hell, actually. Why do we stop when we're in hell? Why do we stop when we're facing these types of things? Why do we freeze?

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It's been said that if there's a fire in a building and there's ten people in the room, eight of the ten people will freeze. One person will run and scream like crazy, and then there will be one other person, and that person will stand up and say everybody relax. Here's what we're going to do. There's the exit, calmly and safely exit out the building, and we'll all be fine. I like to think that all ten of those people is inside of me and is inside of you. That when a fire goes off in the building, 80% of us wants to freeze, 10% of us wants to freak out, and then there's other 10% of us that says, nope, nope, here we go. This is what we do. One step out the door. We need to develop that part of our lives. We need to not give into the part of ourselves that wants to freeze when we're going through hell. What is hell? Hell is looking at a blank word doc when there needs to be a novel on it and you can't type the first word. Hell is looking at a blank canvas that needs a painting, and you have it inside of you but you stay frozen. It's that conflict. It's that breakup. It's that dream that's always been before you but you won't start it. It's that need to get help, to cry out or to confess and you won't do it. Here's what hell is – hell is procrastination. Here's what hell is – putting off what I was called to do until I'm too old to do it. Here's what hell is – self-doubt. Hell is fear, hell is laziness, hell is perfectionism. And here's how we break it. We take action. Get serious. Get serious about your dream. Get serious about what you're called to do. This is your life. Get serious. Take action now. If you're going through hell, don't freeze there. If you're going through hell, keep going. You say Bobby, I kept going and that light at the end of the tunnel, that was a train! You're still alive. You must have moved to the side, or done some kind of.. keep going! Keep going. I developed early in life in school, I was lucky enough to notice something – a go first philosophy. Now I noticed this the first time when I was a boy, and young boys are doing things, we're always doing stupid things, and when the thing wasn't too stupid like jumping off a high dive or swinging on a rope, I realized that you just need to go first. You need to go as soon as possible, because if you stand there looking at the chasm, you just won't go. The more you think about it, the more you think about getting out of it. This became solidified later in life. I remember in high school whenever we have a project that's due or something, and one person goes every week, maybe it's a Friday, and they pass around a list with a calendar on it, and each person, you pick a calendar date and you write your name on it, and that's when you're going to go on the project. What always happens is when you see this list being passed around, it reverse fills, so the latest date possible.. like the first kid that gets is the last date on the thing. And that's how I was. Try and get as late as possible, give myself as much time. One day that thing came around and there was one spot left and guess where it was. On the first day. I could not believe it. Imagine my hard luck. I thought man, this is the worst luck ever. Writing my name – Bobby Schuller. It's my name if you didn't know it. And I went the first week. Wasn't very good. Science project wasn't very good. Put it together, got in front of everybody, was scared, worried, did it. Got an A! Probably A-minus. Here's one thing the teachers give you when you go first: a lot of grace. First one to go. So then I got it done, and the rest of the semester, right, the rest of the semester I had my feet up, hands behind my head, whistling Dixie, watching every student do their thing one after another. Every single time a student went, you know how I felt? Great. I'm already done! It's done. And even if I'd gotten a C, I would have been glad that I was already done. Here's a great thing to do - here's a great thing to do – go first. Get rid of the dread. Get rid of the comparison. Get rid of all the what if's and when's and all of this stuff. Get it done. We call that eat the frog. Eat the frog. Here's what Mark Twain said. You'll hear me say this again in the future, no doubt, "If you have to eat a living frog, do it first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day." That's it, man. If you have to eat a living frog, if you have to eat a live frog, eat it first. Get it done. Eat the frog. Do it now. Take action. Pay the price. Pay the price. You say well I shouldn't have to eat a live frog. I don't want to eat a live frog. That's gross. That's not fair. The world shouldn't make me eat live frogs. Eat the frog. Stop saying should and shouldn't, stop saying it's not fair, stop thinking about how slimy it'll be, stop thinking about I'll do this or that first and I'll do it later, just eat the frog and the rest of the day you can relax. Pay the price. If God asks you to pay a price, it's because there's a reward for the price. Sure, doesn't feel like it when you're doing it. It's hard to be a dad, a mom, a grandma, a grandpa. It's hard to be a leader. It's hard to be a son or a daughter. It's hard to be a brother. It's hard to be a friend. It's hard to be a good worker. It's hard to be an entrepreneur. It's hard to be an artist. It's hard to be excellent. It's hard to do all that you can for the people you love. Pay the price. It's worth it. When you get to the end of life, if you paid the price, you'll be glad that you paid the price. If you get to the end of life and you didn't pay the price, you'll regret not paying the price. Pay the price. Jesus Christ in the garden of Gethsemane, weeping, 'father, take this cup away from me.' You think Jesus wanted to go to the cross? Surely not. Take this cup away from me.

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But it seems like in the Bible, the cross is the only thing Jesus hurries to. He ate the frog. And He said 'Lord, take this cup from me.' Please take this cup away from me, and then what? 'But not my will, yours be done.' He knows that the will of a father, even if it's a cross, that there's something even better on the other line, and there was. We call it resurrection. We call it the salvation of the world. We call it the reason I can go to heaven. We call it the ongoing redeeming work of the kingdom of God because of one person's faithful action to do what needed to be done to pay the price. Your health has a price. You want to be healthy? You got to pay the price. You want to live a long time, see your grandkids get married, you got to pay the price. You want to feel good, you got to pay the price. You want your family to develop well? You got to pay the price. You want your kids to be good kids, your grandkids to be good grandkids, even though it's not fair that this or that happened, you got to pay the price. You have a dream before you, something you've always wanted to do, you have to take action. And trust me, my friend, it's worth it. God's going to bring you victory. He's going to bring you through. And when you get to the other side, you'll say it was a hefty price but the reward was even better. I'm glad I sold everything. I'm glad I bought that land because there I found the pearl of great price. A good friend of mine years ago couldn't have children. He and his wife they were told you can't have babies, and one day his wife got pregnant, and they were over the moon. And then she lost the baby. And then it happened again, she got pregnant again, and then they lost it again. And I was sitting with my friend, and he just was crying and he said, I can't go through this again. I can't do this again. And I didn't have advice for him because I've never been there, and I know that a lot of families do it again and again and they keep losing their kids. But I assumed he kept going because now they have a house full of cute little children. But it's hard when you're in-between the amazing testimony and victory, and when you've already paid a price lots and lots of times to keep paying, to keep doing, to keep plying your trade, to keep working, or for whatever it is for you, to keep writing, to keep reading, to keep praying, to keep doing, to keep going, it gets hard. Some of you, you've been through so much stress in your life, you should have lost your mind. But you haven't. You're probably a lot closer to the end than you think. If only you could know where the end was! But I promise you, the end will be worth it. Some of us have been burned too many times. Beautiful place nearby, Peter's Canyon. Used to go there all the time on a hike. And it was so wonderful, canopied with trees and had a lake in the middle, but then California went through a drought and they had to drain the lake; slowly but surely it went down, and all the fish and the birds went away, but we still had the trees. But as the drought continued, it got drier and drier, the ground got harder, and the path got dustier and it just felt hotter, in general. And then one day the worst thing ever happened, there was a wildfire and all of Peter's Canyon burned to the ground. And I remember just looking at it like it was a comic book with smoke over it and all the trees, all the flowers, everything was gone, and all that was left was ash. It looked like an ashtray with leftover cigarette butts. And this used to be my favorite place and I just remember grieving for it. Last week I went walking through and wouldn't you know. There's been a lot of rain this year. The lake is full of water, and full of fish and there's birds everywhere. The trees are bigger and greener than they've ever been. And as I talked about last week, we're experiencing a super bloom. If you don't believe there's a super bloom, ask a friend with allergies. They'll tell you. And wow, walking through last week, all of the flowers and all of the pinks and purples and yellows. We always forget although those fires are hard to see and hard to experience, they're just a part of nature. They actually make the ground more fertile. They actually get rid of a lot of the stuff that's not supposed to be there. Peter's Canyon has probably been burned down a thousand times and has come back a thousand times. And I remember thinking Peter's Canyon will burn down again, and it'll come back again just as it always has and always will. That's the weird thing about fires in our life. When we're going through it, when we're going through tough times, we have to remember that there's something good that come out of it. It's not always a good thing, it's not always God's plan or our plan or whatever, but here's the thing – talent, personal development, personal achievement, personal growth, its forged in a fire. Diamonds are made under pressure. Gold is extracted in a crucible. A crucible is a big clay pot. You take a lump of bad metal and good metal and you put it in, and that's how you get the gold out. There's gold inside of you but its lumped together sometimes with a bunch of other stuff. And walking through the crucible with the Lord means that what comes out will be gold. What comes out will be gold. God will bring you victory. He'll bring you through. You see natural talent isn't real. It's all a hoax. You know that, right? Everybody you think is naturally talented, they just enjoy the thing more. This is me; this is Bobby talking. I heard Ed Sheeran say this recently. One of the most gifted singers and successful pop artists of all time, he said 'talent isn't real.

## If You're Going Through Hell, Keep on Going

And listen to me in college.' He played this thing of him playing guitar and singing. He sounded terrible. He sounded worse than my neighbor's cat. And this guy is now one of the greatest singers of all time. What happened. He went through a crucible. He had a song in his heart, but he didn't have the training in his lungs, or in his vocal cords. So he had to go through the hours and hours and hours of work to become the Ed Sheeran we know today. How many hours? Malcolm Gladwell says ten thousand. Ten thousand hours. That's how you master a thing. What if we saw being a mother or a father or a friend or a leader or a Christian or hearing God's voice or being healthy as a skill that takes hours and hours to develop. I will tell you as someone who's worked on things in my life, it's always the worst at the beginning. If you're learning piano, or a language, or something like that, it's those first notes that are always the hardest. But once it gets going, it feels great. So here's something we can do. Here's something we can do today. We can understand that every job, every calling has two salaries. Everything you're doing has two salaries. When you go to work, you get paid a certain amount of money, the first salary is your paycheck. That's earthly treasures. That's the one you're excited to get, right? That's the one to automatically deposits. That's Friday every other week, and you're ready to go out and buy whatever; some cupcakes or a hat. There's a second payment, though. There's a second payment and that is the opportunity of getting to know someone or learn something or grow in a way, to learn how to develop a language, or accounting, or a new skill, or pray for someone, and most people when they receive that check, they throw it away. Every job, every calling, every organization we ever work with that pays you, pays you twice. The first one is almost worthless, and that's the one that's money. The second one is how you develop as a person, and that's the kind that will carry the rest of your life. The only thing you take to heaven is who you become. And every job, every calling, everything you've ever done, there's a second payment and almost everybody throws it away. I knew a guy who is now an architect, but the way he became an architect was he was a ticket taker at Disneyland. A young kid in the 90's, take tickets, grunt work, minimum wage, take a ticket, but he always got there early, always stayed late, got to know people, eventually got to know some artists. Had no artistic background at all. Started helping the artists with grunt work, started drawing, became an artist. Then became an artist for Disney, being an artist, doing this, various things for Disneyland, then became an imagineer. Now if you don't know what that is, those are the guys that make the rides. Drawing the characters. Building the roller coasters. Went from an imagineer to an architect and now he does very well. Makes some of the most beautiful, amazing buildings. I don't think he was necessarily smarter, or more gifted, or naturally talented than all the other kids who were ticket takers there that didn't pursue or achieve their dreams. What was different? He got there early. He stayed late. He knew that taking tickets at Disneyland had two salaries. One was minimum wage, and the other was all this opportunity, being surrounded by all these amazing gifted people, with all these eccentric and weird personalities, some of them annoying, some of them insufferable, some of them addicts, some of them mean, some of them nice, some of them liars, all of them full of something that I could use to develop within myself. So here's what we do - here's the weirdest thing I'm going to say all day. This is the point of the whole sermon: cast your cares on Jesus and walk like a turtle. Or a tortoise, the same thing. Tortoise is just a bigger turtle, right? Somebody's going to correct me, I don't know if that's true, but.. You ever seen a turtle walk? Looks like every step is suffering. You know this tale of the tortoise and the hare, don't you, by Aesop. Couple thousand years old. A rabbit and a turtle decide to have a race. Who wins? The turtle. Why? Doesn't make any sense. The rabbit's faster, clever, right? Why? Why? There's something built into a tortoise that's not built into a rabbit. And that is you just keep going. Every step is slow, unless you're swimming. Turtles sure can swim. But when they're walking, it's like every step is pain, everything is difficult, but they just keep going. If you're going through hell, my friend, keep going. Heavens on the other side. If you're going through hell, my friend, keep going. Health is on the other side. Victory is on the other side. Achievements on the other side. Your dream is on the other side. Your family is on the other side. The people that need you, that version of you, it's on the other side of hell. Keep going. Keep going. You're a lot closer than you think. I was working at this Mexican restaurant in Oklahoma, and I was making a minimum wage, but then I saw a magazine article that said for \$400 a month I could buy a Porsche Boxster. And I thought woah! Hey! If I as a 16-year-old could pile all my money together and buy a Porsche Boxster, I think my level of popularity, girl attention at school is going to go way up! I told my dad about this clever idea about how I was going to look. Four hundred dollars a month I could get a Porsche Boxster. And my dad said, that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. He said here's what you do with your \$400 a month - you're only 16 years old, you put it in the S&P 500.

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And he had me map it out on a sheet of paper and that's the first time I saw it. We've all done it before, I'm sure. How does money accrue over time when invested? Now we all know that, and of course I didn't invest in the S&P 500 because I was a stupid 16-year-old. I probably spent it on Abercrombie and Fitch. No Porsche, though. The same is true with your personal development. You put \$400 bucks away in one month, it doesn't turn into a million dollars all by itself. You put \$400 bucks away every month, over a few years, it turns into a fortune. This is not about money; this is about you. Forgive me for this, this is the most dad thing ever, but invest in the S&ME 500. Is that okay? I know it's really corny, but you're actually not going to forget it. When you invest in yourself \$400 worth of effort, or books, or mentors, or looking in the mirror, or asking your spouse how can I do better, as you continue to work on yourself like this, year after year after year, it will turn into an incredible personal heavenly kind of spiritual fortune in your life that will have a financial benefit to you, but so much more. So much more. I want to encourage you to do that. If you're going through a tough time, I'm so sorry it's so hard. You're going to get through it, my friend. Just keep going, God is with you, He's holding your hand, and on the other side is victory. You're going to do great and I'm praying for you. Lord, we love you and we thank you for this opportunity to study your word, and to hear from your spirit. That you would give us your spirit when we need it most, that we would live in that spirit, and thank you Lord, we love you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.