

Hour of Power Deutschland
Steinerne Furt 78
86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96
Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: info@hourofpower.de
www.hourofpower.de

Baden-Württembergische Bank
BLZ: 600 501 01
Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestr. 8
8594 Güttingen
Tel.: 071 690 07 81
info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch
www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern
Konto: 61-18359-6
IBAN:
CH1609000000610183596

Hour of Power 18.02.2024

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: Welcome church family. It feels so good to be together. Just a reminder that there's only a small handful of things that are impossible for God. No! No, nothing that exists is impossible for God and He is on your side. You are loved.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much for your Holy Spirit, and we ask in Jesus' name that every day you'd make us a little bit more like you, Lord. Help us to love more, help us to pour it on more, help us to give more, but Lord, most of all, help us to do it from a place of abundance, and that comes from your Holy Spirit, and we ask for it today, in Jesus' name, all God's people said amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 14,22-27 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Matthew 14:22-27.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid."

The word of the Lord.

INTERVIEW – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Lydia McLaughlin (LM)

Lydia McLaughlin is an author and television personality who appeared on The Real Housewives of Orange County for a few years. She often shared her faith on the show, but after some challenging seasons on television, she felt called to leave and do ministry through writing books and leading Bible studies, which she still does today.

BS: Lydia, hi!

LM: Hi, how are you?

BS: Welcome!

LM: Thank you so much for having me.

BS: It's so nice to meet in person. I've seen your TV show, I've seen you online, and it's really great to have you here in person. We actually are in Orange County so that's great. You probably so used to having to fly to other places, but you get to be here at home.

LM: This is easy, breezy, yes.

BS: It was a great thing when your show started and to see Orange County sort of highlighted, because we often live in the shadow of LA.

LM: Yes, oh it's really fun. I would love seeing like oh my gosh I've been to that restaurant.

BS: Yes exactly. And you..

LM: Okay, yes..

BS: ..have Newport Beach, but Laguna Beach, how different are those places, right next to each other. The ranch country of San Juan Capistrano, Disneyland in Anaheim. It's all Orange County. So that's..

LM: Yes, we've got a lot here.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

BS: That's great. So for those who haven't seen your show, or the show that you were in, I should probably say, it's probably more fair, and are unfamiliar with the story, tell us a little bit about the show and sort of how that affected your life as a Christian.

LM: Yes, yes. So I was on a reality show The Real Housewives of Orange County, and it's not necessarily known as a beautiful Christian show. It's known for being maybe like women having drama with each other. And so I work with my husband and we have a magazine together called Nobleman Magazine, and the producers from the show heard of me owning that magazine, so they contacted me and asked me to be on The Real Housewives. And my immediate response is probably what maybe some people thought of when they saw this, like why would a Christian woman be speaking at a church now when she was on a Bravo reality TV show. And so God has big plans and can do more than we even can imagine, which is why I'm here today.

BS: That's right. That's awesome. I've seen a meme of like a lady shouting at a cat. Do you know the meme?

LM: Probably, yes, probably, I'm sure.

BS: Do you know the one I'm talking about? I feel like that's been Real..

LM: Yes, there's a lot of meme's, hopefully not a lot from me, but..

BS: No totally.

LM: ..definitely, yes.

BS: A lot of drama.. a lot of..

LM: Yes, it's huge in pop culture. I mean everybody has heard of The Real Housewives, if not you, yes.

BS: Yes, yes, yes, of course I have, yes. And I haven't watched it, to be honest with you.

LM: No that's okay.

BS: You know what's weird is my sister was in a big reality show called Laguna Beach on MTV. And when they were filming that, I remember.. and it's now having sort of a resurrection because of Netflix has re-aired it. And I remember, we would like go home and there'd be all these production people outside and they'd mic me up, and I'd be like oh, gosh, I'm just trying to go to my dad's house.

LM: Yes.

BS: And they'd be like 'hey when you go inside, can you ask Christina why they didn't invite her to the kayaking trip.' All right.

LM: That's exactly what it is.

BS: I'm like hey Christina, why didn't your friends.. as if I care? Her brother. Like I do not care. Was that what it was like for you?

LM: Exactly, yes. So everyone asks me, is it real? And it is real, but it's you in unreal situations. So just like you would normally go into your dad's house, but now all of a sudden you have to ask her about the kayaking trip. So that was what it was like was you would go to dinner and they would make you ask about certain things that maybe you never would have normally wanted to ask. So it's you and they don't give you lines to say, but it's not real but it is real. It's a different world.

BS: It's like sixty percent real.

LM: Yes.

BS: Like apple juice. Or whatever.

LM: And they add different things for sure, but yes.

BS: Yes, yes, yes. Yes, made from concentrate, you could say.

LM: Yes, exactly. Exactly.

BS: So in the show, were you outspoken about your faith?

LM: I was, yes, so I was kind of known as like the joyful peacekeeping housewife, I guess, and so that was really maybe my persona, but it was who I was.

And so that's kind of my big message I love to tell people is when I decided to do the show, I was involved in my faith. I was leading a Bible study, so a lot of the women in my life, and even my pastor at the time was like don't do that. Like this show is toxic. Why would you want to put yourself in that situation? But I actually was in a Bible study and I was reading the word of God, and I really felt called to do it. And I think sometimes in our life we try to put God in a box, but He's a big God and He can do more than we can imagine, and He has used that show, like now I have a ministry, I have over half a million followers, and I get to do a Bible study. People kind of trust me because they think I'm their friend, and they have invited me into their living room and so now they're like you were different, you were joyful, could that have been Jesus? What does that look like? What does that mean? So it's given me an opportunity to share my faith.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

BS: That's good. That's awesome. And I would say Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world is a toxic situation, right? That's what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to be light in the darkness. So I agree with your decision, as long as you felt that you had the community, and you clearly did, but of course ultimately you left the show for the same reason. Is that right?

LM: Yes, so I mean I think that we want our faith to be a straight line, right? And a lot of times it's more like this. I really felt called.. actually I was reading Nehemiah, and God calls Nehemiah to leave the palace and go build the wall for His people. And that verse really stuck with me, and I felt like God was calling me out of my palace to go build a wall for Him. And then by the end of the season, I felt like I was starting to change and maybe I was getting more addicted to the fame or the fortune and all these things, whereas before I started as a real pure heart, wanting to do the show. And then all of a sudden my intentions shifted. So I was actually at a retreat, and I was kind of just like talking to God. I wasn't really listening to the.. sorry.. the preacher talking, I was more like..

BS: It's all good.

LM: ..in the seat like in my mind, like God, why would you call me to do this only to call me to leave. And the preacher stopped and he looked right at me and was like I have a word for you. God's calling you back to the palace. And I just felt like oh my gosh, that's the word that means so much to me and it was such just affirmation that I was supposed to leave. And I just believe in the power of scripture, and that if we're in God's word, He'll speak to us through people, but also mostly through His word.

BS: That's right. Amen. And on that note, you've been writing devotionals that are sort of paired up with scripture to sort of help people spend more time in the word. Tell us about those. Those are great.

LM: Yes, yes, I love the word of God and I just believe that God's word is powerful and He wants to speak to us today, to you personally. My pastor always says secondhand Christianity can kill you. And so I think a lot of times we expect I want to hear your encounter with God, and maybe that will inspire me, but God wants to give everybody a personal encounter. And so what does that look like in your life? I love the verse that says our faith increases the more that we hear the word of God. We hear God's word by reading His word. So I wrote a Bible study of kind of.. it's not intro to the Bible, but its more real life situations today. How can we apply God's word to my life as a mom, as someone living in California, as an American woman, this is what the scripture would say to me, and so these are the verses that have inspired me. So trying to make it easier for women not to be intimidated by God's word.

BS: That's great. And there's so much on women, on moms, on wives today that also want to live a full life for Christ. In fact, today I'm really encouraging people to do this exact thing to invest in yourself as a gift for others.

LM: Amen.

BS: So I encourage you, if that's something you want to do, get ahold of this devotional. Let it help you grow in the word. Lydia McLaughlin, thank you so much..

LM: Yes! Thank you so much.

BS: ..for this time!

LM: I appreciate our conversation.

BS: What a great thing. Thank you for sharing with our congregation. We really appreciate you.

LM: Thanks for having me.

BS: God bless you.

LM: God bless.. thanks.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

No matter who you are, would you stand with us? Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. We're going to 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 / PRAYER – Bobby Schuller – “Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others.”

Before I begin my sermon today, I want to encourage you – the human spirit, I think it was hard for the ancients to understand something that is now easy for us to understand. We think in terms of today hardware and software. Hardware, maybe your body, software, your spirit.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

And I think a great analogy that works for one of the great dilemmas of the universe today is the fact that our spirit, our software has become corrupt. We might say we've got some malware; we've got some viruses that have corrupted the software, and you can format the drive. This is the call of Christianity – that you can have a fresh start, that you can have a new beginning. And I want to encourage you today to get a fresh start by trusting and relying on Christ crucified. Jesus Christ laid down His life for us that we could be forgiven, that we could be at peace with God, that we could be empowered with the Holy Spirit, that we could be set free from sickness, that we could be set free from death itself, that heaven could become our home, that the church could become our family and our community, that every kid born without a father or without a mother could now have a father in the Lord, a brother in Christ, a sister in the church. My friend, this is the greatest opportunity that's ever been given to anyone, and so often we just let it pass us, let it go by us. I want to ask you today Christ is near. He's near. He's coming either in your death or in His second coming, He's coming. We have to be ready. Make a decision today to follow Christ and be at peace with Him. I want to encourage you today to choose to become a disciple of Jesus Christ; to invite Him into your heart; to ask Him for the forgiveness of sins, and your life will be changed. If you do that, would you text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen? I want to encourage you to do that today. Today I want to say something that doesn't get said a lot in churches, but is absolutely Biblical. I've made the claim many times. It's fundamental, in fact, to a good Christian life, and that's this: investing in yourself is a gift to others. Not only is investing in yourself a gift to others, it's a moral obligation for Christians; it's something we're called to do. It's something we see in Sabbath, it's something we see in discipleship, it's something we see in Christian education. It's important to invest in yourself, and not only to do it, but to see it as one of the most charitable, friendly, nice things that you can do for the people that live life with you. There's a time you would have said Bobby Schuller was a hard worker. I hope you still say that. Bobby Schuller was a hard worker. I've worked in service. I've been a table expediter at a Mexican restaurant. I've worked at a ranch – that's hard work. I've worked on boats. I've worked in real estate. That's not that hard. I've worked in granite fabrication. But can I tell you in all those times it took me so long, even as an adult, to understand the importance of working on myself. I'd work hard at the task, I'd work hard for a boss, I'd work hard for a paycheck, I'd work hard for a promotion, but I wouldn't work hard to reach the next level of who I was called to be. I wouldn't work hard on reading the scripture. I wouldn't work hard on prayer. I wouldn't work hard on mentors. And it became important to me realizing that the best thing I could do for my job was to work harder on myself than on my job. The best thing I could do for my kids was to work harder on myself than to work hard on my kids, and the list goes on and on. So, I understood this principle later on when I started getting tired because I was eating cheese for dinner every night. That's a true story. There was about a year where I was going to Mother's Market and buying cheeses and that was my dinner every night. I was eating cheese for dinner. And I just started feeling bad. Imagine that. And I heard this great principle, you've probably heard it before – take care of your body and your body (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – will take care of you). Boy is that true. Take care of your body and your body will take care of you. How about this one: take care of your mind and your mind will take care of you. Here's another one: take care of your spirit and your spirit will take care of you. Let us not forget that these are not only things that seem obvious if we just look at them, but that they're actually made clear in scripture. You got to work hard on yourself. You got to work harder on yourself than anything else you work on. You got to invest in yourself. Invest in yourself more than the S&P 500. Invest in the S&ME 500, right? I know it's a cheesy dad joke, but it's still true. My guess is you work hard, you work hard on everything but yourself. You work hard on your kids, you work hard on being a good spouse, you work hard on your ministry, you work hard on your job. And very often it feels like all of those things are going through the motions now. When you wake up in the morning, you're not excited about doing those things. Why? Because you've been working harder on those things than you have been on yourself. You've been investing in others more than investing in yourself. And on the surface, that sounds godly. Invest in others more than you do in yourself. But no, my friend, this is where it starts from. All of these things, they start from a place of abundance. When you're overflowing, when you're overflowing, when your cup overflows, then sharing becomes an easy thing to do. Yes, that's right. Let me look at it this way, if you're still not convinced. My guess is most of you have people in your life that you would say I wish they worked harder on themselves than they worked on me. Anybody have somebody like that? A spouse, a friend, a parent, a child. Many of you have people in your life that you love, and you would say the greatest gift they could give me would be to become healthier. I wish my dad would take care of his body.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

I want him to make it to our kids wedding. Or, I wish so and so was more faith filled, or more positive. I wish so and so, if they just relaxed a little more and took a little time for themselves, took a vacation, maybe they'd be happier. We can think of these examples of people that we really love and we know if they invested in themselves, if they took care of themselves, if they took the time to build themselves up it would be a blessing to everyone around them. You know people like that? I know I do. Sometimes I'm that person. So here, I'll say it again, don't forget: investing in yourself is a gift to others. I remember the Lord put on my heart early in ministry, and I'm glad He did, that my life was to not be like a thirsty man shooting people with a hose. It's the first image he gave me. He said Bobby, this is what most ministers are like today. They're thirsty themselves, and they're just spraying people with a hose. Sometimes people get a drink. Most of the time people get upset and they don't understand. They don't understand. But here's what I want you to be like – I saw this picture of a fountain at this old ranch I was talking about I used to work at, just this bubbling of water from the inside, it just goes a circle to a bigger circle to a bigger circle. If you're overflowing in spirit, if you're overflowing in word, if you're overflowing in positivity and fresh vision and compassion and kindness and love and openness, it's going to be a blessing to everyone around you. They're going to be filled up and it's going to be a blessing to them. It's like those champagne towers you see on the Titanic or something. I probably shouldn't use the Titanic as an example, but.. or whatever it is. They're just spills and spills and spills. To serve from a place of abundance. You say, doesn't the scripture say become a servant of all? Absolutely, but never forget that service is a skill. You ever been served by somebody that was bad at service? Doesn't feel like service at all. You sort of wish they'd go away. Many of us are doing that and we don't even realize it. Many of us are casting our pearls before swine. Many of us are smothering our children, or our employees, or our co-workers. Many of us, because we're not serving from a place of abundance but from a place of thirst, a place of hunger, a place of desperation, a place of willpower, we don't recognize that we're really not helping very often as much as we hope we are. And that makes us feel even more worthless and more empty and want to give up even more. My friend, invest in yourself. Invest in yourself. Invest in yourself. It's a gift to others. It's a gift to me. It's a gift to the world. It's a gift to our country. It's a gift to our schools. It's a gift to our places of work when you invest in you. When you work harder on you than anything else you work on. And that brings me to the proof. The proof is in the pudding, and the pudding is the word of God. I spent a lot of time studying the Sermon the Mount. I still do. I've memorized it. Its three chapters in the Bible. It's considered the core teaching of Jesus. And I think the second most teaching.. here's the first most important teaching: it's the Lord's Prayer. We got to understand that. Okay, here's the second one. And I think it summarizes almost everything that Jesus teaches, and I only realized it much later in life. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in the heavens where moth and rust do not destroy and thieves do not break in and steal. Why is that so important? The Bible talks about money and treasure more than any other subject, did you know that? Because money shows us where our value is. Where you spend your money shows what you care about. What you invest in. What you really care about. And so he says that the best investment you can make is in heaven. As a kid, growing up in Sunday school, I thought this meant an eternal reward when I die. Some kind of pile of treasure or a crown, maybe it was some kind of a.. like a trophy. And that might be true. I think there is something like that. But we limit it to just our death. Here's what Jesus says. Jesus says.. first of all, here's what Jesus doesn't say. He doesn't say you reap what you sow. Did you know that? Jesus never says you reap what you sow. He says here's what you reap when you sow – thirty, sixty, a hundred fold. Well that'd be a bummer if you invested a dollar and you reap a dollar. Right? But no, He says you invest a dollar, you get thirty, sixty, a hundred dollars in heavenly terms. Still, if that's just when we die, it's not that appealing to most of us, I think. But here's the second thing He says: you'll get thirty, sixty, a hundred percent in this age. Everybody say in this age. In this age. So everybody say at hand. What's at hand mean? Right now! Right now! So when it goes there, when you invest there in the kingdom of the heavens, when you invest.. now when He says kingdom of the heavens, it doesn't mean just heaven, it means the air around you. It means in the spiritual world, which is all around us. It's in this room right now. It's wherever you are. It's wherever the Holy Spirit is and wherever God is. When you invest there, it's like it's right here, it's at hand, it's in the actual air around us, but guess what, friends, those treasures cannot be stolen, they cannot be taxed, they cannot be inflated away, they can never, ever lose value. The only thing that can happen is you can toss them away. That's the only way you can get rid of them. And it does happen. You can take it and throw it away. Some people do that.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

Here's some examples of what heavenly treasures were. We know this because Jesus did not cook up this saying. It was in other Jewish texts. We understand heavenly treasures to be knowledge, things like skills, things like goodwill, things like peace, things like leadership ability, things like confidence, etc., etc. These are things that we store up in the air around us that the more we develop them, they come back to benefit us thirty, sixty or a hundred times whatever effort we put into it. And they all benefit one another. They all benefit one another. This is why investing in yourself is so important. This is why working on yourself is so important. This is why the church, to its greatest.. oh my gosh, the greatest mistake the modern church made is divorcing discipleship from Christianity. They didn't call themselves Christians in those days. They called themselves disciples. That means that there's a way of doing things. There's a training. There's a training to teach anybody how to store up these things in the air. In the air so that as you go through life you have these treasures you can pull from that cannot be inflated away; that cannot be stolen. Let's do a case study real quick of how this worked in a Bible characters life. Many of us, we know the good part of Solomon. Those of us who have not read the Bible through forget that there's a bad part of Solomon. Solomon's an interesting character. He begins as a young man, chosen by David himself, very much like King David, the great king. God appears to him and says Solomon, you're about to lead these people, you're a young man, you got a lot of challenges ahead of you. Ask me for anything and I'll give it to him. What does Solomon ask for? He asks for a great heavenly treasure – one of the greatest. He asks for wisdom. And God says you didn't ask for this, you didn't ask for money, you didn't ask for the defeat of your enemies, you didn't ask for this, this, this, this and this. You asked for wisdom and I'm going to give you wisdom, I'm going to make you the wisest person in the world, but guess what – I'm also going to give you money, I'm going to give you the defeat of your enemy, I'm going to give you victory, I'm going to give you etc., etc., etc. That's a great promise and it happens. We see that Solomon becomes incredibly wealthy, incredibly powerful, incredibly healthy. He becomes an achiever, he builds one of the greatest temples in human history, the temple that David wanted to build and couldn't. People come from all around the world. We see great kings, great leaders, the version of like Dukes and Duchesses, and senators. These types of characters coming from all around the world to get great wisdom from Solomon, and everything he says to them helps them and benefits them in many ways. So not only does he grow in this heavenly treasure, but he shares this heavenly treasure with others, and it benefits them greatly. That's phase one of Solomon. You can clearly see how in his life a heavenly treasure, wisdom, was resulting in thirty, sixty, a hundred fold, in real tangible, in this age results. Can we all see that? Phase two. Solomon, for whatever reason in his older age, begins to marry the daughters of kings. These princesses, who are not Jewish. They're not religious or they have their own religions, and he gets to marry them and creates this huge entourage, and he does it for alliances, he does it because he wants to become stronger, he does it because he wants to save Israel, I suppose. But all of a sudden, all of these new foreign gods, these pagan gods begin to invade the kingdom of Israel. And to make it even worse, Solomon builds altars to these gods and goddesses. And he employs priests and all of these things. And so Solomon, in his old age, actually you'll see in Deuteronomy chapter 17, there's these commands for what kings are supposed to not do lest they become like Pharaoh. And here we see that Solomon breaks every single edict, he becomes just like Pharaoh. And here's what God says to Solomon. 1st Kings chapter 11 verse 9. He says "the Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel who had appeared to him twice. Although he'd forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. So the Lord said to Solomon, since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear down to the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates." And that's exactly what happens. Solomon loses it all – the kingdom, the money, everything. He loses it all. Why? Because he lost the heavenly treasure. He lost the wisdom. Today we call this in leadership the Solomon Paradox. You probably know somebody that does this – incredibly wise people who give incredibly good advice that they never follow themselves. This is the Solomon Paradox. You give great advice that you don't take for yourself. Here's a good exercise you can give. Next time you're in a big challenge, write an email to yourself. "Dear Bobby – I had this exchange today. I'm not sure what to do. What should I do?" Read it then and then write an email response. You will give yourself really good advice and you'll be tempted not to follow it. You'll be tempted not to follow it. Do not fall trap to the Solomon Paradox because the Solomon Paradox is the way that you have heavenly treasures but you refuse to access them.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

Here's the final analysis for Solomon. He had an incredibly huge heavenly portfolio, but he lost his ATM card. He had billions of dollars but he lost his checkbook. It was all there, but he gave up access. Don't do that. Keep saving, keep storing, keep building your heavenly portfolio, but whatever you do, don't forget that all the money, all the goodwill, all the blessing in your life, it comes from the Lord. If you turn your back on the Lord, you turn your back on everything that gives life in this world. So let's talk about your heavenly portfolio. Let's talk about your treasures. Let's see what you actually got in the account. Shall we take a look? Let's see what we got. Here's how you can improve your heavenly portfolio. First, let's just make one thing clear – let's start at zero. So many people today in investing and in normal investing we would say, are in debt. Student loan debts. Hundred thousand dollars. Twenty thousand dollar car debt. Big mortgage. What if I told you God has a debt forgiveness plan for you? Many of us, we have heavenly debts. We have the sins, the bad will, the bad faith, the way that we've lied and tricked people, the way we've treated our children or our grandchildren, the way we've treated our spouse or old people we've dated, or our old roommate, or old business partners. We've done things in the past that we regret. We've made mistakes. But God can delete those tapes. God can destroy those files. He did it on the cross of Christ. So let's start at zero first of all by understanding that death and sickness and sin, it all died on the cross and we're going to start at zero. You can have your slate clean. Amen? That's the gospel. That's good news. All right. Now that we've started there, I want to talk about.. and I pulled this from Proverbs chapter three, what I call the golden trinity. If you're a note taker, this is the time to do to. I think this is the most important sermon I'm going to preach all year. I think anybody who does what I tell them to do today, their life will never be the same. And I think it's in these three heavenly treasures, that understanding that if you store up these three things, your life will never be the same. Your finances will never be the same, your physical health will never be the same, your family will never be the same, your walk with God will never be the same. Waking up in the morning will never be the same if you understand this golden triangle. You'll understand these three greatest of heavenly treasures that are given to us from the word of God. Here's the first great heavenly treasure. Number one: favor with God and man. This is a treasure that creates opportunity and second chances. We all need it. Favor with God and man. The business world calls this goodwill. Anytime a business sells, whether it's publicly or privately, the number one thing they look at, other than profits is goodwill. How much goodwill is there towards this company? We're seeing goodwill take place in our economy right now. Target has recently had a change in goodwill. Budweiser has recently had a change in goodwill. FTX, which was a great crypto exchange had a major change in goodwill recently when they defrauded people. And here's one of the greatest stories ever of goodwill. Tylenol, back in the, I believe it was the 80's. It was a business legend. Somebody was going around opening Tylenol bottles and putting in poison pills and a number of people died. And Tylenol had the opportunity to make a choice – should we just try and spot and catch everything, or should we withdraw everything. They felt pretty confident that it was localized to one area, but they made this epic choice of spending the equivalent of probably billions of dollars, or at least hundreds of millions pulling back every bottle of Tylenol. They pulled them all back, they put all fresh Tylenol and they put in a new case on top; the little silver foil thing that's on every bottle now. It was new back then. And this was their way of saying you know this bottle doesn't have any poison in it. People understood, not only did they understand, they knew what Tylenol did and that's when Tylenol became the king of acetaminophen. Is that what it's called? I mean when you call a chemical by a company brand name, that is goodwill. When you call tissue Kleenex, when you call a copy machine a Xerox, that's goodwill. Coca Cola had something similar. Remember new Coke in the 80's? Anybody? Well I actually don't remember that, but I saw a video on it. They created a new Coke brand. Every study said that the new Coke was better and people went crazy. And so they brought back the old Coke and they called it Coca Cola Classic. And their stock went through the roof, and their goodwill went through the roof. And the CEO of the company later said, when he was asked was this all a big plan from the beginning? What did the CEO say? He said we are not dumb, and we are not that smart. It's a good line. You can have this with the Lord and you can have this with people. It's the opportunity and it's the second chances treasure that you can store in heaven. Some characters that for sure had this – David had this, Joseph had this, Abraham had this. How do you get favor with God and man? The Bible tells us. There's two things. It says this – let love and faithfulness never leave you. Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and you will have favor with God and man. That's how you get it. You hear what it was? I said at the beginning – love and faithfulness. Jesus says Himself love one another and ask whatever you want and I'll give it to you. There it is. Love and faithfulness.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

Here's what love is. Love means real impact to the benefit of others. Here's what love means, it means real service. Here's what love means, it means generosity. If you don't have any generosity, you probably don't have much love. It's an area of growth for you. The Bible tells us if you don't give away ten percent of your money, you're robbing God and you won't have any financial blessing in your life. So give away ten percent of your money, whether it's to your church or to your neighbor or to people in need or to your favorite charity. You need to become a generous person. It's hard to do when you haven't had a lot. But the irony is that unless you open your hand to give, you also won't open your hand to receive. So this is what the Bible teaches. That's love. So loving other people, at least with ten percent of your money and with your service and with your time, and also faithfulness. Faithfulness means people can count on you. It means you do it over a long period of time. A man says I tried faithfulness. Right? Here's what we know. Faithfulness is not something you try. It's someone you are. It's someone people can count on. It's something that you always are. Faithfulness is not something you tried once. It's something you are day after day, month after month, year after year. If you're faithful and if you love people, you will increase in this heavenly treasure a favor with God and with man. Number two – number two, treasure in the golden triangle, wisdom. We've already talked about it. Wisdom is a treasure of joy, success and a good life. Today we've confused wisdom with knowledge. Knowledge is also super important. Here's something we can say about science. Science, which is so important, I love science, I love the sciences. Science can give us knowledge, but it cannot give us wisdom. Science cannot give us wisdom. That's why the smartest people in the world, who have tons and tons of knowledge very often still have messed up lives. Their bank accounts are empty, they've been married multiple times, and just can't be happy in a relationship. They always go back to the same toxic people, or whatever. They use drugs and alcohol, they're never happy, because science, which is important, knowledge and wisdom get confused. So here's what learning and science looks like. And it's important. Scientific understanding is important, but this is what it looks like. Understanding observations, measurements, facts or principles. But here's what learning and wisdom looks like. Very simple. A change in behavior. If your behavior hasn't changed, you haven't grown in wisdom. So learning and wisdom is a change in behavior. Do you keep going back to the same rotten guy? You haven't grown in wisdom. Do you keep gambling? Do you keep getting fired for the same reason? The list goes on and on. When these things happen, it's a temptation to blame others, to blame something genetically, to say I'll never get over it, to say this, to say that. At the end of the day, you lack wisdom. And here's how you get wisdom, it's the only way you get it, you get it through trial and error, or you get it from the mistakes of others. In other words, the only way to get wisdom is either you make a mistake or you watch somebody else make a mistake and you don't do it, too. That's it! So, wisdom. All right. Number three. You ready for it? So we got favor with God and man, we've got wisdom, the last one is faith. Faith is a treasure of miracles and victory against all odds. There's only one way to get faith. I'm just going to say it plainly. There's only one way to get faith. You don't get faith by thinking harder, you don't get faith by trying harder. There's only one way to get faith, and that's the Bible. That is it. The only way to increase your faith is to hear the word of God. To hear it, to believe it. Its bread! The Bible is bread! And it's not bread every once in a while, it's your daily bread. Man says I've already read that verse. That's like me saying I've already tried pizza. No, you eat pizza every day. The word of God is Chipotle. Right? You eat it every day. Its bread! Its bread. You say I'm on a low carb diet. Let's not. Let's not do it. Let's not do it. People say today, wow, Hannah has so much faith. Hannah lays hands on people and they get well. Hannah speaks and I believe and then I feel like my spirit changes. Here's what Hannah does. Hannah reads the Bible, not every month, not every Sunday, every day, and it's annoying. It is. Every night. The other day we got home from a long miserable trip. Hours in rain and delays and our bags, and we driving home from LAX, and crawl into bed at two in the morning. Now we go to bed at ten at night every night because a good Christian on his way to heaven is up by seven and in bed by eleven. Everybody knows that. That's what my friend Jan says. No, but we roll in at two am in the morning, I'm exhausted, and we crawl into bed, I'm like so excited, I'm about to turn the light off, and the lamp on Hannah's side goes (CLICK) on. And she goes.. and really nicely goes, do you mind if I just read for two minutes? She has her Bible out. And what am I supposed to say? Pastor Schuller, what am I supposed to say? I'm like yeah. Can you read the one where it says Jesus loved naps and sleeping? If you ask Hannah, why do you have so much faith, she will either say I don't have that much faith, or she'll say it's the Bible. Right? (HANNAH: oh yes, I for sure have faith, I know I do) Yes, she does have faith, she knows she has faith, and she knows it came from the Bible. Okay.

Investing in Yourself is a Gift to Others

If you want faith, if you want miracles in your life, you want to overcome things against all odds, you have to eat your bread every day. Just every day. And it doesn't have to be that much, like a couple minutes every day. Five minutes. Not that much. Listen to it maybe in your car, if you don't make time for it. If you build any of these three things, especially all of these three things, your life will never be the same. It's a guarantee. And you'll have access your whole life to this incredible treasure that brings everything that you actually need and want from life. So Father, we ask you in Jesus' name for all the treasures of heaven that you make available through your Holy Spirit, through the resurrection of Jesus, and through your word. And we pray that every day we would grow in these things. That every day we would not compare ourselves to anyone else but who we were yesterday. Help us to understand, Lord, that to invest in ourselves is a gift to others. It's a gift to you, it's a gift to the people that love us, and so we decide today to do it, in Jesus' name, all God's people said, 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.