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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 welcome friends. We are so happy you're here. The one who put the stars in the sky and the waters upon the earth is here in this place with us, and He has loved you with an everlasting love. Thank you for joining us.

BS: It's so true. He really does love us and what a great thing to celebrate that the creator of the universe sees us, loves us, is for us, is working on our behalf, already did the great work on the cross. We can come boldly before Him. Let's do that today. Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus who laid His life down for our sins that we could be totally blameless and covered in your grace and favor, purpose, life. Thank you for your word. Thank you for your people. We pray today we would become a new creation in you and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, 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 28,1-10 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Romans 12:1-2. These verses always get me excited. Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve, and I love the King James version says, then you will be able to prove what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Max Lucado

Max Lucado is a pastor, speaker, and author who has written dozens of books over the course of his time in ministry. He also serves at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas. Many of his books are written to encourage people in all avenues of life. His newest book, God Never Gives Up on You: What Jacob's Story Teaches Us about Grace, Mercy, and God's Relentless Love, looks at how even when we feel like a failure, God still loves us unconditionally.

HS: Max, hi! Thank you so much for joining us today. I know that you are a New York Times bestselling author of lots and lots of books, but I teach the middle school Sunday school group here, and all of us have your One God, One Plan, One Life devotional, and the kids love it. It's been such an incredible book for us to go through. So thank you so much for all of your work and your faithfulness in your writing.

ML: Well I'm happy to hear that, and thank you for this opportunity. It's really a treat to talk to you.

HS: Great. Okay, so for those of you who may not be familiar for you and your work, tell us a little bit about yourself and your faith journey.

ML: Okay. I live in San Antonio, Texas. My wife and I married in Miami, Florida in 1981, and served a church there for a few years, then moved to Brazil and we lived there, and that's where two of our three daughters were born. And then we moved to San Antonio, and I've been in San Antonio since 1988, and I've been at the same church all those years. I've done a lot of writing through the years. I started writing back in the mid 80's and I've continued to write, and love that part. And I've got three daughters, I've got two grandchildren born, and I've got two that are.. I mean one of them is on the clock any day now, and then the other is some months away. So we're enjoying a real expansion season in our life.

HS: Wow, congratulations. I love that. So how many books have you written now?

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HS: Wow, congratulations. I love that. So how many books have you written now?

ML: Well, that's a tricky question because the kind of book that we're talking about today they call trade paper books. I've written about 45 of those. But I've also written about 40 children's books, and I've written a slew of devotionals and edited a few Bibles. So it kind of depends on how you count it. But quite a few.

HS: Great, great. So what has all these books, and they've been so successful, what is your inspiration? I mean do you feel like maybe like the Holy Spirit leads you toward writing a certain book? Do you feel like it's something you notice in culture – oh, this needs to be spoken to. Like what inspires each of these books that you write. They have such a popularity, success and really are impactful. What's your inspiration?

ML: All of my books begin as sermon series in our church. My hunch is if the church needs to hear it, then the broader audience might benefit from it. There have been a few exceptions to that, but by and large, every time I preach a sermon series, it becomes a book. And those sermon series, just like in any church, come out of prayer and out of conversations and discussions with staff and leadership – where do we need to go, what do we need to study. And so I think the answer to your question is God leads me by leading me on the topic of what to preach, and then that becomes a book.

HS: I love that. I feel like that's almost the way of the Lord, is like putting your faith into action and as you go, He continues to lead you in the way that is powerful. So I love that. Okay, so tell us a little bit about your brand new book: God Never Gives Up on You. And can you explain a little bit why you decided to focus on the story of Jacob?

ML: I'm fascinated with Jacob and I have been nearly my whole life. There's something curious.. when a person begins reading the well-known characters of the Bible, there are lots of books on Abraham, lots on Moses, lots on Daniel, lots on Joseph, not quite so many on Jacob. And I think the reason is we don't quite know what to do with him. The guy was a bit slippery, kind of tricky, deceiver. He couldn't quite keep his spiritual balance and that's what I love about him. What I love about Jacob is that even though his faith was hot and cold, his devotion was in and out, God still used him. So the hero of the story of Jacob is not Jacob. The hero is God and God's relentless devotion to use and keep His promise, because He had made that promise to Abraham, and He promised Isaac, and then He promised Jacob, and He kept that promise. And I believe we could all use that reminder that God, once He makes a promise, He's going to keep it for us

HS: That's so good. It's so true and he's so human. Like we're all human, and we have these things that somebody else might look at and think oh, that's not perfect, but the faithfulness of God throughout our humanness, if we just continue to be stubborn about, okay maybe I failed here, but I'm going to keep marching toward the Lord. So another question for you: what encouragement can you offer those who are in a season of feeling like they are failing?

ML: I would say you are a human being. It doesn't mean you're not a Christian, it doesn't mean the Lord doesn't love you, it doesn't mean that you're demon possessed, or you were potty trained too early, I mean we all pass through these seasons of struggle. And you're going to get through this. You are. I would encourage you not to give up. I would encourage you not to interpret the presence of your problems as the absence of God. And I would encourage you to keep an eye out for God. He will meet you in this place.

HS: Amen.

ML: He will meet you here. And He will walk you through it, so just don't give up, don't give in. Keep pressing forward. Measure your faithfulness in obedience more than harvest. It may be a tough time, but you just keep doing what's right, and things are going to get better.

HS: That is so good. I love it. Measure on your obedience, not on your progress. That is so powerful and so, so true. I've seen that over and over again. So God Never Gives Up on You is available wherever books are sold. Max Lucado, thank you for sharing your story with us. God loves you and so do we.

ML: Thank you. It's a great honor. All the very best.

HS: Thank you.

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### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well welcome, we're so glad you're here. Would you stand with us? 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 / PRAYER – Bobby Schuller – "Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Whole World "

I want to encourage you this morning to make a decision to follow Christ. In our faith, it's different than every other moral philosophy in religion. Christianity claims, unlike everyone else, that good works don't get you to heaven. We don't good work our way into heaven. Rather, we all come broken, sinners, we all come messed up. We're all equal in that way. We're all sinners. We've all made mistakes. And there's only one way to fix that and that's through the crucifixion of Christ, and we rely on that we're saved. And so there are good works. The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith unto good works. In other words, God is the only one who can do the saving, but after He saves us, we trust in His love for us, and all the good that we do is a reaction. It's a response. We believe with all our heart that He loves us, that He's forgiven us, then all that we do is a response in saying thank you, Lord. Thank you. I want to encourage you to receive Christ into your heart today and you can call heaven your home and you can build a life in response of thanks to Him. If you make that decision today, will you text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. I want to pray for you. The title of my sermon today is a famous Norman Vincent Peale quote. He said: change your thoughts, change your world. Actually wrote a book with the same title, and it is one hundred percent true. I have seen this over and over in life, and it's all through the scripture. In fact, let's turn straight to Romans chapter 12, which is my favorite Bible verse, and we're going to see one of those places where Paul lays this out for the Roman church. It begins like this. He says "therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." Now everyone say living sacrifice (AUDIENCE – living sacrifice). Now we're used to it because you grew up in church, whatever, but in a pagan world like the one Paul is in, there's no such thing as a "living sacrifice." Whether it's a goat, a chicken, a lamb, some kind of bird, they all have one thing in common. What is that one thing? They're all kaput. Right? They're all dead. In fact if you don't kill it, it's not a sacrifice. And so this is an interesting turn of a phrase – a living sacrifice. Well what does that mean? He says a living sacrifice. And what's the sacrifice? Guess what – it's you! "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your true and proper worship." Well what does that mean? Well he tells us in the next verse. He says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed" how? "By the renewing of your mind." So you've got a pattern in the world, and then you've got a different kind of pattern, a different kind of thinking, a different kind of way of seeing, a different kind of lens. And he says "then you'll be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will." I just want to pause here for a moment and say this is a good sermon for notes. Here's a good way to take notes. You can type them on the little notes on your phone. There's going to be lots of slides that are going to go up, you can take pictures of them with your phone. If you're watching at home, you can take screen shots, but I want you to know that today, if you hear what I say, your life won't be the same. What I'm offering you today is of such immense value and I hope you get it today. Here's what its saying. The sacrifice that we make is a new kind of pattern. The sacrifice we make is a new kind of thinking. That when we get this new kind of thinking, the renewing of the mind, when we get this new kind of thinking, a sacrifice is made, but when that sacrifice is made, it doesn't bring death, it brings life. It brings us to life. Well what kind of sacrifice is that and why is it called a sacrifice? The sacrifice is a new mind. And why do we call it a sacrifice? Because friends, thinking new thoughts, it's hard. It's hard. It's hard to tell your spouse in the morning that you love them every single day. It's hard to pour it on at your work or your project. It's hard to practice the disciplines. It's hard to live within your means. It's hard to quit smoking. I mean there's a million things that need to change in our lives and in our thinking, but it's hard. It's a sacrifice. But it's a sacrifice that brings life and that sacrifice comes through a new mind. That's what the Bible tells us. It says things like love the Lord with all your mind. That's an interesting passage. In Hebrew, one of the most famous Bible verses is "you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your" and in Hebrew, before you fill it in, in Hebrew the word is "mayode." Everybody say mayode. (AUDIENCE – mayode) Mayode means "very."

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That doesn't make any sense. So in Hebrew, in this ancient passage, famous passage, it says you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your very. And so what happens is translators today, and many a rabbis in Jesus' day, they scratch their heads and they go huh. It sounds weird in Hebrew, too, by the way. It sounds weird. It's incorrect grammar, even in Hebrew. What does very mean? I always often think of a little kid going 'I just love Him with all my very!' And it kind of makes sense if you can think of a child saying it. So what does very mean? Oftentimes it's translated as strength. Many rabbis fill that word in. Here's what Jesus said in one passage. He says you love with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your.. what was that? (AUDIENCE – mind) With all your mind. What does it mean to love the Lord with your mind? It seems to be the most important word of the three. Love the Lord with your mind. The Bible says to take every thought captive. The Bible says as a man thinketh, so is he. Literally, what you think is who you are. If you change your thoughts, guess what else changes? Everything else in your life. If your thoughts stay the same, guess what stays the same – everything else in your life. You want a new life? You need new thoughts. Life change comes through thought change. And those changes of thoughts don't come naturally. They have to come intentionally. They have to come through disciplines. They have to come through practice. They have to come on purpose. Life change comes through thought change, is what the word tells us. You want a bigger life? Get bigger thoughts. You want a better life? Get better thoughts. You want a healthier life? Get healthier thoughts. You want a more successful life? Of course you do. Get more successful thoughts, the kind of thoughts that successful people have. You want a godly life? I hope you do. Get godly thoughts. The mind is like a dry new sponge. That's what the mind is. You take your new sponge and you drop it in a bucket of muddy water, and you pull that sponge out, what's in that sponge? Muddy, dirty, bacteria laden, gross water. It can be very hard to get that sponge to look clean again if you drop it, especially in mud from Oklahoma. That stuff is red and it stains. But if you take a brand new sponge and you drop it in a swimming pool full of Evian, and you pull it out, what do you got now? Sponge full of drinkable, delicious water straight from the French Alps and it'll only cost you \$10.99. Did you know Evian spelled backwards is naïve? There you go. And yet I've got some in my fridge. The mind is a sponge. So the mind is a sponge, what am I saying here? The environment your mind in matters. What's in the bucket that your sponge is in? Your environment matters. A man says oh the music I listen to doesn't matter. A man says oh the language that's spoken around me, it doesn't matter. It doesn't have an impact. Guy says oh the images I look at, the videos I watch, the movies I watch, the YouTube videos I play, it doesn't matter. The people I hang around with, that doesn't matter. Your mind's a sponge, it'll soak it all up. Now if you grew up in a religious environment, you probably heard that in a negative way. Avoid all the negative images, all the negative words, all the negative music, and I was saying that, but it goes the other way, too! Get your mind in a positive environment around positive people. Hear the kind of words that are going to lift you up. Listen to worship music. Listen to the kind of podcasts and the videos that are going to train your mind to become who you want to be. Your mind's a sponge; don't let it be dry, make it nice and wet. Get it full of all the good stuff that will create the life that you want. When you change one thought in your life, your whole destination changes, even when you change just a little bit of your thinking. Even when you change just one little thought. Isn't that interesting? I used to work on boats all the time, and you might think that when you captain a boat that it's this big steering wheel that drives the direction of the boat. But really most people today use this little box that's autopilot and it has a destination on it, and it has a degree at which direction you're sailing. And if you want to change direction, you go to that little knob and you change it. One thing I notice is if I turn that knob one degree, and you won't even see the boat move. It did, though. You won't even see the sun move in the position of the sky, but it did. And yet you wait a couple hours and you're miles away from where you would have been, had you not moved it one degree. This is what happens in your life when you change one thought in the right direction. Man says well what's the difference between one little thought. Here's what it's like – anybody like baseball? When a ball and the bat connect, the difference between one little centimeter. What does that make in baseball? Oh, that's the difference between a home run and a ground out. Well what does just one degree in temperature in your house? I remember some Steve Martin movie, I forget where it was, where he just kept saying 'one degree, one degree.' Well what is one degree? It's a lot when you're going from 33 to 32. What's the difference between 33 and 32? It's liquid and solid. These little changes in your life, they don't seem like a big deal, they're not as just a huge deal, they're everything. They're everything. If you want to change your life, you've got to change your thoughts. Your mind is a garden. It requires constant attention.

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The more intelligent you are, the more you have to pay attention to your thoughts. Good soil not only bears good crops, it also bears big and good weeds! Weeds grow better in good soil, too. Did you know that? So you got to tend to your mind. All right, and that brings us to the meat of the matter. I put together seven world changer thoughts that if you incorporate even one of these seven into your life, it'll make a difference. You say Bobby, why seven? Because it's the Bible. I don't know. I picked seven favorites. Are there more? Yes. I thought of two more this morning. I didn't include them, but these are seven that I think are from the Bible. You can probably think of a hundred more, but I promise you any of these will make a difference. Implement just one and your life will change. Here's the first one. It's my favorite and it's the most important. Thought #1 – focus on the spiritual world behind the material world. We live in a spiritual world that has material results. Many philosophers who weren't even religious were able to discover this. You might know the name Plato, existed hundreds of years before Christianity. They used to sit around and think and Plato said something like you know what, I think there's this thing that we would call a spiritual world. And there's this material world. And I think they affect each other. And boy was he right. Plato used to say it this way. He gave an analogy of a cave and he says it's kind of like a man who has grown up his whole life in a dark cave with other people who have spent their whole lives in a cave, and one day he gets out and he runs around and he sees all this amazing stuff – trees and rainbows and sunshine. He didn't even know it existed. He runs back into the cave, but now because his eyes are adjusted to the sunlight, he can't see very well in the cave and so he starts tripping over things. And he doesn't have words to describe all those things he saw, so he starts to try and describe it, but he doesn't know how to do it, and so what does everybody think he is? They think he's nuts. They think he's crazy, and very few people believe him. This is what it's like when you see behind the veil. You know in your heart what you experienced, you know you believe, you know you feel. You don't always have the language. You don't always have the way to describe. It doesn't always make sense, but you know it in your heart. And if you know that, you know the peace that comes from that. You know the purpose that comes from that, and you know the power that comes from that. Because the greatest power comes from the spiritual world. Look, in the universe we live in, either there's exactly what meets the eye, or there's more than what meets the eye. I think it's more. I think it's a lot more. In fact, I think a lot of what's meeting the eye is not really thought about very much. Once, I was sitting on my porch, having a cup of coffee late at night, because I'm half Pearsley and we drink coffee at night. That's what we do. And I remember looking.. there was a spider and this normally it would be kind of gross and scary, but I watched this spider build a spider web. And it took a while, but it did everything perfectly. It didn't mess up even once, and I thought huh. That's interesting. Mama spider didn't come to little baby boy spider and say okay, here's how we're going to do it. You got to do it this way and that way, and make sure you cross this way. No, the spider just knew. How did he just know? Well scientists say its instinct and somehow that settles the matter. It doesn't settle it for me. You can't just put a word on something and then it's settled. And maybe if you've had children, or if you had to witness a baby being born, how many people think huh, that's interesting. That's pretty crazy. As my daughter likes to say, it's amazing that a woman can 3-D print a person in her body. That's a funny way of saying it. That is amazing! Here's another way of thinking about it. If you were born in middle earth, or if you were born in Narnia, it would feel the same as being born here. You would look around and you'd say those are just fairies. You'd say that's just a dragon. What's the big deal? In the same way we look and say it's just a giraffe. A giraffe? Have you seen a giraffe? It's crazy. If a giraffe didn't exist and it appeared out of nowhere, we'd be like okay, we're living in a magical world. So here's the universe we live in. It's a universe that has black holes that eat time and light. We live in a universe where if you cut your skin open, it heals. We live in a universe where if you put a seed in a pot and you water it, a tree grows up and food will come from the tree. We live in a universe full of rainbows and thunderstorms and campfires. We're just used to it. We're just used to it. I actually believe that our lack of belief today.. I used to think in the modern age it was because of science and the university and all these discoveries. Hogwash. Our lack of belief is not because of science, our lack of belief is because of the indoors. When you live in a manmade world, you start to think man made the world. When you get out of your house and you go on hikes and you're outside and you see all this stuff, when you live in a God made world, you start to believe God made the world. And in fact, in my experience, biologists and those types of scientists seem to have more belief than the rest of us. So here's the thing. Behind the material world that we live in, there's a creator and the creator has the whole world in His hands. The creator of the universe is in control of His creation.

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You can lean on Him, you can count on Him, you can depend on Him, you can pray to Him, and He will listen. If you have a need, He has the provision. If you have a hurt, He has the healing. If you have the faith, He has the power. This is the world we live in. Can I get an amen from all the Baptists? Thought number two. Thought #2. Focus on what you can control. Let me ask you a question – what do most people focus on? On what they can control or what they can't control? When you watch the news later tonight, are they going to be telling you about things you can control? Or things you cannot control? When you talk to your grumpy, negative friends and relatives, are they talking about things they can control or things they can't control? It's always the can't. That's what negative is. Its saying I'm not in control. Its saying I'm not the one to blame. Its saying there's nothing I can do. Its saying I'm powerless. Hogwash. Here's a way Jim Rohn said it. I think this is great. You have the seed in the soil, right? A farmer goes out and he works every day. In the spring, he plants, he works ten/twelve hour days, six days a week, seven days a week, sometimes, works all year long. Works through the summer, tends to his crops, does all that's required of him. Harvest season comes in the fall. The day before he's about to send the combines into the field and collect all that grain a hailstorm comes, wipes out everything. Wipes out that crop. He deserves every crop, he did all the work, he deserves every little bit, and yet, not of anything of his own making, there's nothing he could have done to prevent it, a hailstorm comes and wipes it out. What does he do? Good question. Now in life this is true for us. Sometimes there are things that we just cannot control. Sometimes there are things that are not good or evil, they just happen. Sometimes things happen in our life, and here's the choice that we'll have that will separate yourself from everyone else. Will you keep farming or will you give up? Will you plant again? Will you tend again? Will you work again? Will you keep going? If you do, it'll make all the difference. That's what you can control. You can't control the hailstorms. You can't control your neighbors, you can't control your government, you can't control all of these things, but here's something you can control – you can control what you do each day. You can control how you get out of bed. You can control going to church on Sunday. You can control giving. You can control participating. You can control living life with a smile. You can control what you listen to every single day. You can control what the sponge is getting, and you can control your environment. So focus on what you can control, and your life will change. Thought number three. Move from thoughts of blame to thoughts of personal responsibility. Yes, I know this is Bobby Schuller special, yes I know you've heard it a million times, but even I cannot hear this enough. I have to hear it every day. My teenage daughter reminds me constantly of the temptation to blame others, to blame society, to blame this or that. It will get you nowhere. I learned this at a young age. I remember, I was in high school and this really gorgeous girl named Hannah, I was 16, asked me a weird question. Now I didn't know at the time she didn't really care; she just had five brothers. She was trying to make conversation with me. She said 'hey Bobby, how much can you bench? What's your bench max?' And I didn't know what that meant. I know she meant weights, I know I meant.. but I didn't know what it was. I gave some fumbling answer. And I'm not even joking, later that week, I enrolled in weightlifting in my high school. And I remember, I was.. I really go.. what's my bench? She cares about this. I got to figure out my bench. She did not care, but I thought she did. Anyway. I remember one day there was this guy going for a bench max, and he didn't get it, and he got off the bar and he kicked the bar like it was the bars fault. And he did say something like stupid bar. It was slippery or something like this. Now I learned in that moment it was not the bars fault. It was the guys fault. He wasn't strong enough, and he wasn't strong enough because he didn't eat right, he didn't put in the hours, he hadn't get enough time, whatever. And he was embarrassed because we were all watching. Now this is what we do when we're embarrassed about where we are, when we're unsettled about where we are, when we feel like we've been wronged and it's not our fault, we begin to blame. Blame, in this church, is a two syllable word: B-lame. That's how we pronounce it from now on. If you want to B-lame, literally lame like you're not going to go anywhere, start blaming people. When was the last time you blamed someone, maybe your spouse or your brother or your parents, you sat them down, you blamed them for everything. When was the last time you blamed somebody for everything and they went huh, I'm really glad we had this talk. I now see that I was in the wrong, and you were in the right. And now I'm going to change and your life is going to be better. I'm willing to bet a hundred.. no, I'm willing to bet a thousand dollars it's never happened to you, it's never happened to me. Here's what I know. I know that blaming people doesn't help, blaming governments doesn't help. Blaming your spouse won't get you a better spouse. Blaming your country won't get you a better country. Blaming your church won't get you a better church. Blaming your doctor won't make you more healthy. Blaming your boss won't help your financial situation. Beware.

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Do not blame groups of people as has become so common today. Yes, it's easy to do. We all are very tribal, but this group blame thing is a huge mistake because it closes you off to all the opportunity that's available out there. Don't blame all men or all women. There are good men and bad men. There are good women and bad women. There are good Russians and bad Russians. There are good Yankees fans and bad Yankees fans, right? Don't put people in groups, don't blame a group. This is a huge mistake that will close off your life to an incredible amount of opportunity and positive experience. Thought number four. Move from small thinking to thinking as big as you possibly can. I used to think the idea that big thinking was just a quaint motivational thing. I used to think that this was an exaggeration. If you can see it, it's possible for you. Now this is true. If you can see it, it's possible for you. It's practically true. It's actually true. Here's a good example. Here's a dream I don't have. I don't have a dream to colonize Mars. Zero interest in doing that. I don't think I can do that. I don't want to do that. I like earth with all of our rainbows and campfires, etc., and spiders. We can do without the spiders. But there's another guy named Elon Musk who has a dream of doing that, who has a possibility of doing that, and I would say he could do it. But I can't. Why? Because it's not my dream. If you have the dream, that probably means somewhere deep inside the fact that you can see it, it's possible for you. Here's a dream I have. I have a dream of putting Hour of Power in North Korea. That's possible for me. I have a dream of bringing Dutch.. this is a real one.. Dutch infrastructure to Costa Mesa. I think about it all the time. The Dutch infrastructure is amazing. Stoplights are the most un-American thing I can think of. It's literally the government telling you to stop when there's no other cars coming. We need roundabouts. But am I going to do it? No, no, hold on. Here's another dream I have – building another Crystal Cathedral. Hey, okay. You can pay the hundred million. But here's my point. I actually think all of those things are possible for me, but it's not what I feel God has called me to do now. God has given me another vision that's equally as hard. Number one, you've heard me say it before, I want to be the world's greatest husband and the world's greatest dad. That takes a lot of work. And here's another thing I want to do. I want to build a church full of world changers. Now I don't need ten million world changers. I don't even need a thousand world changers. How many world changers do I need? About 12. That's how many Jesus needed. If there are 12 people of all the people that listen to me, if 12 become world changers, that's enough for me. That's enough to do a lot more than build a building or go on air somewhere or change some infrastructure. Okay. So if you can believe it, you can do it. If you can believe it, you can achieve it. It's possible for you if you can see it. It actually is possible for you. And then you must judge how much time and energy you want to put towards it. Number five. Assume the best about people until you are proved wrong. Some people assume the worst until proved right. That's not a good way to go about life. Everybody deserves respect until they lose it. So assume the best about people until they prove you wrong. Very interesting study from 1980 done by two researchers named Kleck and Strenta. It went like this: they got a bunch of people and put makeup scars on their face to see if when they went out into the world, if they received prejudice and discrimination. And what they did is just before these people went out into the world, the makeup artist would go up and say, I just need to touch up the scar a little bit. I want to make it look as real as possible. What they actually did, without the person knowing, they removed the scar and just cleaned their face and made them look normal. Then these people, who thought they had scars on their face, went out into the world and interacted and what did they come back reporting? All this prejudice, all these horrible things that people said about them, all of these comments they even wrote down that they knew were illusory to having a scar and all of these things. Amazing. And universally, everybody came back with the same report. Jokes on them. Amazing. What does that teach us? What we carry out into the world, what we think people are seeing in us, it's usually fake, and very often by putting it out there, that's why we're getting it back. Change your thoughts and you'll change your world. Change your thoughts about people, and you'll change the kind of behavior that those people have, even. If you see the best in people, they're going to give you the best. If you see the worst in people, they're going to give you the worst. You remember your parents, don't you? When they saw the worst in you, you gave them the worst. When they saw the best in you, you gave them the best. That's it. That's it. It's so true. So forgive people. Don't hold a grudge. God is not holding a grudge against you. Number six. Here's a good thought. Move from embarrassment to walking in grace. Now, I had the word shame there, but I think embarrassment fits better because so often, we feel embarrassed. Confidence does not come from pretending to be confident. Confident comes from competence. It comes from getting better. And competence comes from trial and error.

## Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Whole World

So if you want to get better at something, you have to be willing to be a little embarrassed at first, because nobody comes out of the womb being good at anything. Nobody comes out of the womb being good at piano or good at driving. You remember driving? Now I remember watching my sister, and she would do her makeup while driving with her knee, and like listening to music. And I remember when I first started, I thought how on earth did she do that? And now I do it with my In-n-Out and my Diet Coke. But at first, I was embarrassed the way I started driving. You remember what it's like learning something. If you want to learn things, and you want to do them in the real world, you have to be okay that sometimes you're going to be a little embarrassed. Sometimes you have to bluff your way through things a little bit. Sometimes you just have to try. And on that same vein, own your scars. Own your past. I heard about this big preacher that a few years ago, it came out, a female preacher, that she used to be in Playboy Magazine. And she denied it. She said never true, never true. And I saw on, I think it was on Inside Edition or something, they show this.. she's in a bikini, but they show her picture and you're like that's her! That's the same person! They verified it was her, and she still denies it to this day, and I think what a waste! Why not say God saved me from that. God rescued me from that. I'm a new creation. In fact, there's another group, I hope I can say this from the pulpit, this is their name – Hookers for Jesus. And this is a group of women who came out of prostitution and out of human trafficking, and they're there to witness to other women and people to come out of that world to get their life right with God. I think it's a beautiful thing, don't you? So own your scars. It's part of your testimony. It's part of your story. Don't be embarrassed about where you came from. Don't be embarrassed about what God did for you. Be excited about it. Don't be embarrassed to read your Bible at a coffee shop. Don't be embarrassed to tell people you're a Christian. Don't be embarrassed to tell people you're working on yourself. Don't be embarrassed to tell people that you're working on an addiction, or you're working on this or that. Just own your scars and trust that God will work through that and help you through it. You want the last one? All right, last one, number seven – move from focusing on what's missing to focusing on all that you have. It's so hard, isn't it? We're all missing something. We're all missing something. Some of us are missing our youth. Some of us are missing a spouse. Some of us are missing a child. Some of us are missing an opportunity. Some of us are missing this or missing that and it's so easy not to grieve and focus on all that's missing from our life. You look to the person to your right, they're missing something. You look to the person on your left, they're missing something. Everybody on this pulpit, everybody in that choir, everybody in this orchestra and I, everybody in this room is missing something, and it's sad. And you can focus on what's missing, or you can focus on all that you have. You can focus on the amazing country you've been given. You can focus on your friends. You can focus that you're alive. A lot of people didn't get that good blessing today. You woke up alive today, and you can focus, as you get older, on all that you wish you had done in your past, or you can focus on this – what can I do with the time I've been given left. What can I do with all the years that are wrapped up into the person that is me, with all the experience and all the network, and all the relationships? What can I do with that that's bigger than something like sitting around watching TV or just playing golf? What can I do with all that I've become to use the last years of my life in this world to make a difference for the next generation? That's a good question to ask. We call that gratitude. We call it gratitude when you wake up and you recognize what you have and not what you're missing. We call that gratitude when you focus on all the good that you have, and boy does gratitude create miracles, does gratitude open doors, does gratitude make your relationship with your family and others better. Man, if there was a good thought to change, this would be it: focus on what you have. Don't focus on what you've lost, focus on what you have left and focus on what's possible for you. It's limitless, and I encourage you in that. Look, my friends, you change your thoughts, you will change your whole world. You change one thought from a negative to a positive, everything will change for you. We thank you, Lord, we trust our lives to you, and we pray that you would show us, especially through your scripture, and through other Christians who have walked how to change our thinking. We want to be more like you, Jesus, and it's in your name we pray, 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.