

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

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

HS: Welcome friends. We are happy that you're here. Did you know that Jesus prayed for us, the future believers, before He went to the cross? He prayed that we would be united and that we would be one as Him and the Father are one. So let's worship this morning in powerful unity. Thank you again for being here. We love you. You are loved.

BS: That's right. Worship, when we gather today, it's about lifting up the name of Jesus, and what we mean by that literally is above other names. Right? So our problems have a name. Our boss has a name. Right? Our challenges, our diseases, they have names. And we put Christ above those. Is that right?

HS: Amen.

BS: We're going to do that today in our heart and in our mind. A lot of us came here in our heads. We're in our heads a lot right now. Some of you just came back to like, whoo, you know, so we're going to turn our hearts and minds to the Lord.

Father, we come to you in Jesus name and we thank you that your Holy Spirit is here to do a good work. We lift up the name of Jesus above every name. There is real power in the name of Christ; in the name of Jesus. And it is by that name that we are set free. It is by that name that we have provision. It is by that name we're healed. It's by that name we walk in victory and life and our sins are forgiven.

Lord, we thank you, thank you, thank you that your Holy Spirit is hovering in this place and is in the building ready to do a good work. And we just acknowledge that by faith, and thank you, Lord, that you're here, and we pray it in Jesus name, and all God's people said, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Mark 11:12-14, 20-25 - Hannah

Let's feed our faith with Mark 11:12-14 and 20-25.

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit on it. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

Let's flip down now to verse 20:

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remarked and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Thank you, Lord. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Living Things Grow"

Before we get into the sermon, I want to remind you that I spent a good portion of my life in Oklahoma and Oklahoma churches. Thank you. Amen. Oklahoma churches are talking churches. And I think a talking church is good. A sermon is something that's best experienced, when I say amen, you say, (AUDIENCE – amen). And it makes it better! It really does. You receive more when you participate. I want you to talk. I know we're Presbyterian, we're the frozen chosen, but we want to let some of that stuff go. Is that right?

I just believe when I picture the bride of Christ at the end of days, the church that God is coming back to, when I picture that church, to me, it looks like the early church. Does it look like that to you? It doesn't look like it's about one guy. It doesn't look like one man has all the answers. It looks like a community of people full of the Holy Spirit, performing miracles, prophesying. It's spilling out into the streets. It's in our schools, it's in our daily life, it's in our marriages, it's in our friendships, it's in our meals. That's what I see.

We don't have to wait until the very last day of this epoch. We can experience that now. Who wants that now? Okay.

Today we're going to talk about growth, about growing, about being more than we are now. When we grow, life gets better. Life improves. And the main way we understand through scripture that a person grows is they grow in their mind; they grow in their thinking; they grow in their understanding. The main way we grow is in our mind.

A businessman has a business mind. A great businessman has a great business mind. A leader has a leader's mind. A great leader has a great leader's mind. A mother has what? A mother's mind. She thinks about her kids a lot, right? A great mother has a great mother's mind. Is there such thing as a wicked mother? Some of you thought mother-in-law. Not me, I've got a great mother-in-law. My mother-in-law is amazing. There are wicked mothers out there and they have what? A wicked mother's mind.

And even an athlete. When we think about athletes, we don't think about their minds, we think about their bodies and what they're able to accomplish physically and how small that window is that they can be excellent. But when you talk to the world's greatest athletes, they're not talking about their bodies very often. What are they talking about? The mind game. The kind of presence they bring to their training, the kind of thinking they bring to the competition. And in fact, being athletically amazing doesn't make you enough to be a professional. If you take the world's greatest, say, Olympic athlete and you put him on the Angels, he's going to do pretty good for an Angel, but overall, he's not going to know how to swing a bat. He doesn't have what? He doesn't have the mind for baseball.

And this is important that we understand that when we talk about growth, we are specifically talking about a new mind, new thoughts, new philosophy, new ideas. This is how we grow. Is that right? This is not Bobby talking. Everything I'm saying here, hopefully is from the Lord. It's from the scripture. We know it's from the Lord because it's from the Bible.

What does the Bible say? To be carnally minded is what? You guys know this one? To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Spiritually what? (AUDIENCE – minded) Minded. Minded. Is that right?

Jesus takes the famous passage from Deuteronomy, "you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and all your strength," and He changes it. He says, "you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your (AUDIENCE – mind). Can we love the Lord with our mind? "Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind!" A new mind is a new person. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he," the scripture says.

You cannot divorce your thoughts from your results. You cannot separate your thinking from where you are in life. You cannot separate your loss or challenges or the pit that you find yourself in. You cannot separate that from the pattern of thinking. And that's why it is so important as believers that we are vigilant to disagree with the world when it says you have to just think what you think, you have to just feel what you feel. That's just what it is.

That's not what the scripture says. The scriptures teach us we can have a new mind, we can have new thoughts, we can choose what to think about or what to not think about. And the biggest reason is because as believers, we know that the thoughts that we receive, most of them, and this I hope, will give you a lot of hope, is not coming from you. It's not coming from you. We think it's coming from my body. It's not. It's coming from the

angelic world. It's a word. It is from the spiritual world. You may not believe that. I'm telling you it's true. You have the capability to take a thought or to not take a thought. Jesus tells us, don't take any anxious thought. Don't take it. Can you take it or not take it? You have a choice, and the choice is, I hope for you, is life. Don't take those thoughts.

So therefore, growth. What we mean when we talk about growth is we mean getting a new mind, getting wisdom, getting understanding, getting knowledge, and even more importantly, getting a new kind of just way of thinking. That we're just choosing not to be anxious, we're choosing not to be discouraged, we're choosing not to worry. That is a command and we can do it. Amen? Now, see, I thought with that prep, I was going to get a better amen there. It's okay. Will you get me on the next one? All right. We'll see.

Living things are growing things. Living things are growing things. When a thing dies, it stops growing. When a thing is alive, it grows. You might think to yourself, well, what about like an old man? He's not growing anymore. He's kind of shrinking. You know what's so funny about that, in the natural, I mean, did you know, I think this is right, all the cells in your body that you have right now, you didn't have any of those cells 10 years ago. I'll just leave that on the table for you to think about. You're constantly losing souls and re-growing of.. souls. I don't have a Hannah in this service. She's taking care of your teenagers. We're constantly losing cells and creating new cells. You are growing cells. You're growing because you're what? You're alive. Is that right?

Things that are alive, they grow. And to grow as a believer means to grow in our understanding, particularly of the scripture, to grow in our understanding of God's personality, to grow in our belief and our trust that what He says in the Word about our destiny, our life, our healing, our everything is true, even though we don't always see it.

And so this is what growing means - increasing our faith, increasing our knowledge, changing our thoughts. Let me just say something: we grow or we die. We grow or we die. All of us have been in a season of non-growth, and when we're in that season for a long time, it feels like death. And all of us have been in a season, and many of us are there now, in a season of rapid growth where we're just growing, learning, achieving, right? And it's here, it's in the mind. We're discovering. We're opening new doors. And boy, do you feel alive when you're growing. Humans are most alive when we grow, and the way we grow is in our thinking. We grow in our mind. We grow by getting new thoughts, living thoughts that bring life.

Good question for you. Do you like how I'm slowly migrating away from the sun? Can you see me doing it? I'm trying to be sneaky about it. I'm a pro. I can do this. How much does a tree grow? It's a good question. How much does a tree grow? Somebody say as much as it can (AUDIENCE – as much as it can). How much can a tree grow? (AUDIENCE – as much as it can) Okay, its limbs go as high as they can. Its roots go as deep as it can. It does as much 100% of what is possible based on its DNA and its resources. It goes as far, as high, as deep as it possibly can. Is that right?

How much does a human being grow? See, this is the thing. This is the thing that makes us different from other living things. We have the ability to decide not to grow. Isn't that strange? We have the ability to choose to phone it in, to not care, to not learn, to not touch lives, to not make an impact, or we can choose to grow.

It is important that we understand that when a tree grows, the most important part of where the tree grows is actually in the invisible parts, in the roots. You can't see most of where a tree is growing, and that is yet the most important part. We see the trees and the fruit and this, but the most important part is the roots. Is that right? And in fact, if you want to see a tree grow, sometimes you have to prune. You have to cut or get rid of the visible parts so the invisible parts will grow.

This is true for the man or woman of God. When you focus on growing, don't focus on what people see in the natural as much as you focus on the roots. Focus on your thinking. Change your thoughts and you'll change your world. Change your thinking, you'll

change your life, change your mind, you'll change everything about your future. See the world loves what's visible. The world sees a clipped rose and it goes, wow, it's so beautiful. And it is, it's gorgeous. But, my friend, that rose is dead. It's dead. There's nothing you can do for that rose. It looks alive, it looks good, looks beautiful. How many people that you see in Hollywood, on television, on social media, look beautiful, smell good, I would assume, look good, look alive, but are dead.

See, what's visible is deceiving. What's invisible, the part that God loves, is what is true and this is the part that we're talking about today, again, the mind, the way we think. And in fact, if we want to grow in our mind, sometimes we have to prune the parts that are visible.

Some of you hear it now, if you listen to the Holy Spirit, He's actually calling you to prune, right now, asking you to make a decision. Some of you need to prune some distractions. Some of you need to prune some media from your life. Some of you, and I know this sounds harsh, you need to prune some friends. We know that there are things in this life that look like growth, but they're holding us back from really growing in the way we're supposed to. So it is our calling to focus on the mind, to focus on invisible growth, and to focus on the growth of the Spirit.

Here's a promise I'll make to you. If you grow mentally, if you grow in your thought life, if you grow in the invisible parts of your life, you're going to grow on the outside in the visible parts. If you grow in the invisible parts, you're going to grow way more in the visible parts in the long run. That is a Bobby Schuller promise. You might be in a stage of life where you're like a stone in a slingshot, and as you're learning, you're just kind of here and you see all your friends, and your sister, and your old friend from college, and your neighbor, and boy, it seems like they're getting way ahead of you. And for you, what are you doing? You're like going backwards. You're going slowly, feel like you're going backwards. My friend, let me tell you that the tension between you and where you're supposed to go increases as you grow in the invisible places, and eventually the Lord will release you and you'll get it all. I've seen it a million times. That's a promise.

We've got the first bit, don't we? A new mind is a new life. We're transformed by the renewing of our mind. We're going to confess something together. Are you ready? Now, you promised me a good amen. I'm going to believe that you're going to use that amen energy, and you're going to put it in this confession. Not for me, but for you. Is that right?

All right, confess with me. Say I commit (AUDIENCE – I commit) to being transformed (AUDIENCE – to being transformed) by the renewing of my mind (AUDIENCE – by the renewing of my mind). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Again, how much does a tree grow? (AUDIENCE – as much as it can) As much as it can. Here's another good question: how many grapes does a vine grow? (AUDIENCE – as many as it can) As many as it can. What about apples? How many apples does an apple tree grow? (AUDIENCE – as many as it can) As many as it can, right?

And here is the new thing that the Lord has recently taught me in the Spirit. I believed, and I hope probably even taught, falsely, that we as believers are called to bear fruit in our season. That we have seasons where we bear fruit, and seasons where we don't. Seasons where you can clearly see that God's doing something in our life, and other sort of dark nights of the soul, or whatever. I think that's all hogwash. It's all hogwash, and I'll show you in the scripture.

Turn with me to Mark, chapter 11. Thank you for bringing your Bible to church. Mark chapter 11. "The next day, as they were leaving Bethany." Mark chapter 11, verse 12. "The next day, as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves." Why? Was it in season? (AUDIENCE – no) It was not in season. If it was not in season, was there any fig tree anywhere in all of Israel that had figs? No. And yet Mark, who is really Peter, Mark wants you to see what? That still you're going to see this fig tree

was cursed even though it was not in season. Does that seem fair to you?

Let's keep reading. "Then he said to the tree, may no one eat fruit from you ever again. And his disciples heard him say it." Okay, jump down to verse 20. What we're skipping over is Jesus clearing the temple, which is an important part of the story, but we'll come back to that some other time. We don't have time today.

Verse 20. "In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, Rabbi, look, the fig tree you cursed has withered." What does Jesus say? "Have faith in God." Now we're about to read maybe one of the most famous passages in the Bible, but it's interesting how this famous passage we're about to read comes after Jesus cursing a fig tree. What do the two have in common? What is the Rabbi? What is the Master trying to show us?

"Have faith in God, he says." Right? "Truly, I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, go, throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in their heart, but believes what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it." See, if you're in a posture of believing that you have received it, you still haven't seen it in the natural. Is that right? Otherwise, there's no reason to believe.

This is advice He's giving us. "Believe that you've received it and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you of your sins." What I want you to see here is that Jesus is showing us a model, number one we could say, if you're a fig tree, you better bear figs. Is that right? If you're a fig tree, you better have figs when the Master comes around. If you're a fig tree, even if it's not in season, you better have some figs. Is that right?

That's the first lesson. And we see that reiterated in John 15, when Jesus says that there's two types of Christians, some that bear fruit and others that don't. There are some that bear fruit and there are others that don't. What happens to the ones that don't bear fruit? They are pruned and thrown into the fire. They're tossed away. Okay? This is important because there are believers out there that are going to be like, it wasn't my season! Right, as you're getting clipped? No. It is important to understand that some branches bear fruit and others do not. It is important when we talk about growth, what we're really talking about is growing fruit. Growing fruit.

It is not natural for an apple tree to bear apples all the time, is that right? It is not natural for a vine to have grapes all year round. Is that right? It is not natural for a fig tree to have figs when it's not in season. Is that right? If you had something like that, would it be magic? Maybe we would say it's supernatural.

And this is where we diverge. Supernatural. It is supernatural, and that is the kind of fruit that God wants from you, supernatural fruit. Someone here is saying, but Bobby, I can't just bear fruit all the time. The Spirit that is saying that is somebody who's exhausted from bearing what they think is fruit.

But let me ask you, how hard does an apple tree work to bear fruit? Does it go? (MAKES GROANING SOUNDS) (POP) Is that what happens? No! Right? The apple tree just receives from the earth and from the water all that it needs, and apples appear. And when you pluck an apple from the apple tree, is it upset? No, sir. There's another one coming right after that, right? Naturally. I'm going to move. How's that? No more scooching.

It doesn't have to try. It's not exhausted. The tree is not exhausted. It's not exhausted. A lot of the times when we talk about bearing fruit in its season, we think about Psalm chapter one. But the Lord revealed to me something else in this. When you look at it closely in the original language. Who knows Psalm 1? "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the way of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers." That's a warning to you young people. Mockers are the worst of all three. "But his delight is on the law." Or we would say his delight is on the Torah, which is the scripture. His delight

is on the Torah of the Lord, and on his Torah he meditates" on Sundays. Is that right? Got any students in the house? And on his Torah, he meditates (AUDIENCE – day) day only or what? (AUDIENCE – day and night) Day and night. Somebody say day and night? (AUDIENCE – day and night) Somebody say night and day (AUDIENCE – night and day). Day and night.

What happens if somebody meditates on the scripture, if somebody meditates on the Lord day and night? There's a promise. He tells us that person will be like, what? A tree that yields fruit in its season. Okay, this is the one that tripped me up. If you look at it, you could say fruit that is yield in its season, or you can translate it as seasonal fruit. It's like a tree that yields seasonal fruit.

Now, if you go to the grocery store, Trader Joe's, which is the greatest grocery store that ever has been and ever will be, world without end, amen. Is that right? And you go to Trader Joe's and sometimes you have strawberries in season and other times you have strawberries out of season. And you're going to bake Pastor Bobby a strawberry pie. So you want it to be good, right? Maybe. Good or no? I've never had a bad pie in this church. This is a pie making church. Anyway. Which strawberries do you want (AUDIENCE – in season) in season.

What it's talking about is not that you bear fruit sometimes, it's talking about the quality of the fruit you'll bear. Seasonal fruit. The best seasonal fruit. The kind of fruit that's wrapped in foil paper. Have you ever seen that before? Anytime you buy fruit that's wrapped in foil, it's the best. I don't know why. It always is. Seasonal fruit. And how do you get the seasonal fruit? Meditating. What is meditating? (AUDIENCE – thinking) Thinking! Thank you. Thinking, day and night, night and day. And someone here is saying in their spirit, I can't think about God day and night, night and day. I can't meditate on the Lord day and night, night and day. I can't meditate on scripture all the time. Here's my answer: you're meditating on something, you're thinking about something, and the results that you're getting are the result of the thinking. Is that right? Change your thinking, you'll change your life.

Jesus tells us, watch out for false prophets. You remember how He tells us to look for false prophets? He says, they're going to be all around you. They're going to be in the church. They're going to be Christians. They're going to be believers. How do we find false prophets? Do you remember? Is it their doctrine? I know as Presbyterians, we love our doctrine. Doctrine is important, but that's not what He says. Is it their prayer life? Is it the size of their church? Is it the quality of their sermons? What is it? It's by their (AUDIENCE – fruit) fruit, you'll know them.

Here's what a false prophet looks like. I'm an apple tree. I'm an apple tree. I'm an apple tree. Believe me, I'm an apple tree. And out comes thistles. Now, if an apple tree says, I'm an apple tree, I'm an apple tree, I identify as an apple tree, and then thistles, what is that? (AUDIENCE – false prophet) That's a false prophet. That's a thistle bush. Is that right?

This is important. By their fruit you'll know them. By their fruit. And I can tell you honestly that many Christians today, they want to bear fruit, but they're not bearing real fruit, they're bearing thistles and they're exhausted. Bearing thistles is exhausting. Bearing thistles is exhausting. You know what thistle is? We've got them here in California. This is milk thistle. It's actually a flower. It's pretty. If you've got a modern house, you get a bunch of these and put them on your kitchen counter. But you can't eat it. And if you touch it, it'll poke you.

That's what dead religion does. And this is who Jesus is talking about, the Pharisees. They know the Bible front to back, but they have no fruit. Without faith, right? That's what Jesus talks about with the fig tree, faith. Without faith, without the Holy Spirit, the best you're ever going to produce is thistles. Without faith and without the Spirit, you will not see miracles. You will not hear from God. You will not win the lost. You will not

transform your family. You will not change your team. With the Holy Spirit, when you walk by faith, you will do all of those things and more. For those who believe, you will do more, Jesus tells us, than He did. That's fruit. Is that right?

The problem. The problem. The problem is the sin of unbelief, and I emphasize sin. Christians today don't see lack of faith or unbelief as a major problem. It's THE problem. It is THE problem.

I want to talk to you all at home, too. I just made this note: please subscribe because it is important. All seriousness, it is important that what we're talking about today is in a library of ideas that should be studied, and it is important that you continue to listen to a lot of these things so they get inside of you. Meditating on the Bible doesn't mean just reading the Bible. It can also mean listening to sermons, listening to reflections, listening to teachings, this type of thing.

If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Hebrews. I'll show you. The New Testament everywhere calls unbelief a sin. Hebrews 11 makes it super clear. Did I say Hebrews 11? That's a good chapter, but what I meant to say was Hebrews 3. Hebrews 3. I'll give you another second to turn to the left about four pages. Verse 12. "See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God." Unbelief is a sin and it requires repentance.

We're going to do that right now. We're going to repent of our unbelief. Are you okay with that? We're going to repent of our unbelief. I've done it, you've done it. We get low points where we don't have any faith. We're going to do this. Hold your hands like this. Turn your spirit to the Lord. You may not know what that means, but you do know what it means in your spirit. Turn your spirit to God like this, and repeat after me: Jesus Christ, Son of God (AUDIENCE – Jesus Christ, Son of God) we confess our sin of unbelief (AUDIENCE – we confess our sin of unbelief). We do not excuse it (AUDIENCE – we do not excuse it). We ask you to forgive us (AUDIENCE – we ask you to forgive us). We believe your word (AUDIENCE – we believe your word). We believe you paid the price (AUDIENCE – we believe you paid the price). We believe you will provide for us (AUDIENCE – we believe you will provide for us). We believe you'll heal us (AUDIENCE – we believe you'll heal us). We believe you'll set us free (AUDIENCE – we believe you'll set us free). Satan has no hold on me (AUDIENCE – Satan has no hold on me). In Jesus' name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus' name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Can I have 10 more minutes? If you need to go, just go, all right? No problem. I know there's things. If you got to go, go. I need five/ten more minutes. Okay. Okay. I remember another pastor did that in another church, and I was like, bro, you need to wrap it up. So if you need to go, seriously, go. I just need to say one more thing.

When we walk by faith, which is believing God's Word, right, we know how to get faith. We don't get faith from prayer, although that's important. We don't get faith from worship, although that's important. Faith comes by (AUDIENCE – hearing) hearing and hearing by (AUDIENCE – the Word) the Word of God. Every day you will have a choice to believe what the scripture says is happening in your life or what the natural says. You have the ability to walk by faith or walk by sight. They're opposed. Walk by faith or walk by sight. The world one hundred percent walks by sight, but we walk by faith. And what is faith really?

Last scripture, Galatians, chapter five. We can't talk about bearing fruit without seeing how the scriptures clearly defines fruit. You bear fruit when you walk by the Spirit, not when you walk by the flesh.

Turn with me to Galatians, chapter 5, verse 16. We're not going to skip the bad part. This year we're going deeper, right? In a non-deep season, I'm only reading the good part. We're in a deep season, so we're going to do both sides of the ledger, okay? That's because the things we're about to talk about, America is riddled with it, and it's riddled because preachers refuse to talk about this stuff. So we're going to talk about it, is that

okay? We're going to get set free. That's a good thing.

Paul says to the church in Galatia, so I say, "walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh." This is the same thing as walking by faith or walking by sight. You walk in the Spirit, you walk by faith or you walk in the flesh. You walk by what you see inside. Okay. They are in conflict with each other. "So that you are not to do whatever you want."

That's opposed to the world, isn't it? Here's what the world says: do what you want. You're married, you feel love for some other person, that's where you're supposed to be because you feel that. Somebody say hogwash (AUDIENCE – hogwash). Okay? All right. We don't believe that stuff. Where was I? Somebody tell me what verse I was on. Conflict with each other. Yes, what do you want? Okay, "but if you're led by the Spirit, you're not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious. Sexual immorality." Everywhere. "Impurity and debauchery." It's everywhere. It's killing us. We are not happy, those of us who are caught up in that. We are not having fun anymore, are we?

"Idolatry and witchcraft." I've got to pause here. This gets me every time. When you read the scriptures, it's hard to understand. God loves us, but God hates witchcraft. Listen to me, friends, hates idolatry. Hates it. He says in Exodus, when He's talking about prohibiting these things, He says, if you have a graven image you hate me. You hate me.

Listen to me. Listen. This is really important. If you have in your possession, or in your house any object that is in the image of a god, a deity, a demon or anything like that, throw it away. Especially if you went on some trip to Mexico or Africa or Egypt or somewhere and you got some clever pretty thing that looks like Osiris or anything like that, listen, four big ones to watch out for. Anything that looks like a goat standing on its hind legs. Number two, anything that looks like a bull with horns. Number three, anything that looks like a snake, a serpent or a dragon. Number four, anything that looks like a many breasted woman. This is not a joke. Those images which appear in every culture, they are real principalities that emerge everywhere. They're worshipped. They create portals to the spiritual world. If you have something like that in your possession anywhere, throw it away. You are under a curse if you have it in your possession. Throw it away and repent. This is a big deal.

If any of you deal in tarot cards, horoscope, okay? Ouija board, throw it away and repent. You have created an altar in the spirit which is a portal between the angelic world and you, and it's not the kind of angel you want. Throw it away. Amen? God hates that stuff. There are a lot of these things, there's a lot of grace; there is very little wiggle room for that kind of thing. Okay? All right. Don't come under condemnation, we're set free. But don't even a little bit mess with that stuff. Okay? I'll keep going.

"Hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." All right, well, we're done with the credit side of the balance sheet. Okay? The negative stuff. Is that all right?

Here's the good news. "But the fruit of the Spirit," this is what it means to grow, right? Here's what the fruit of the Spirit looks like. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience or forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." This is really what we're talking about when we talk about bearing fruit.

Let's look at what it says in the Amplified. The best translation really of the Bible is the Amplified because it gives you all the options for every word. "The fruit of the Spirit that is the result of his presence within us is love, that is unselfish concern for others, joy, inner peace, patience." I love this. "Not the ability to wait, but how we act while we're waiting." Is that good? "Kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Look, this is the life that God wants for us. When we talk about bearing fruit all the

time, we're talking about this kind of life: full of joy. And let me just say one last thing, and I know I keep saying that, but the fruit here is not saying there are nine fruits in the Spirit. In Greek it says that there's one fruit and these are all aspects of that one fruit. There's a big confusion when we read it. We think, oh, I'm really good at six of the nine fruits. No, no. How many fruits are there? How many? (AUDIENCE – one) There's one with nine descriptions.

We think of this like what it sounds like to God in our hearts, it's like but the fruit of an apple is apples, bananas, pumpkins, strawberry. No, no, it should sound like this: but the fruit of an apple tree is red, circular, has a white sweet filling, has some seeds in the middle, has a little stem. It's about the size of your fist. Does that make sense?

Here's what I need you to hear: if you've got eight out of nine of these things that it talks about, is it from the Spirit? No. No. If you have a joyless pastor, which you don't. No self-control, but you got all the others. If you have all of them but no love, it's not from the Spirit. And when we talk about bearing fruit all the time, this is the result of what we're talking about. When you get new thoughts, new thinking, this is the result.

People spend millions of dollars, they waste away hundreds of hours of their week trying to get the stuff in their own strength. It's available to you if you meditate, if you cast down every thought that sets itself against Christ. Is that right? This is what is available to you. The best life we can imagine.

Will you come back next week? Can I put the rest of this away? I haven't got to the best part yet. I really haven't, but I will talk on it next week if you come back, but only if you come back.

Stand with me. Do you feel the Spirit in the room? It's in the room, you can feel it, right? I can feel the Holy Spirit driving by this place. I really can. Let's become more sensitive in the Spirit to evil places and holy places. That's real. The Bible tells the Holy Spirit hovers and the Holy Spirit is here. God's ready to give you something. Are you ready to receive?

Lift your hands with me like this. I'm going to lead us in a prayer. Just open your heart. We thank you Father in heaven that you love us, and we do repent of believing and depending on the flesh, of letting our emotions lead us, of not taking captive the negative thoughts that come into our mind. We have learned today we can choose not to worry. We can choose to reject fear. We can choose to reject unbelief, and we thank you, God that you're giving us faith through your word. We believe your word! We believe it! We believe it Lord. You see our hearts and we give you whatever faith we have that you could use it. Let it be a seed in your kingdom. Let it grow, Father.

Lord, today again we decide to meditate on whatever is good, whatever is from you, whatever is noble, whatever is lovely. We emphasize that Lord, in our life. We focus on what the scripture says about us. And then we just understand that as we abide in you, we're just going to bear fruit all the time; in season, out of season, all the time. And we look forward with expectation and joy for the lives that will be touched just as a result of what you're doing in our lives.

Lord, I pray a special prayer for anyone here who has unsaved family members. We are believing that the light of Christ would shine in their lives. We want them to be set free. Not under condemnation, not walking by fear, not walking in the flesh. We release our faith now. Think about that person that you're praying for. We release our faith now that they would come to the knowledge of Christ; that they too would bear incredible fruit. And we pray and just bless every church in this area that's preaching the scriptures. We pray that today they would bear fruit, as well. And we thank you for our brothers and sisters, and Lord we love you, it's in Jesus 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.