

### **GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby Schuller**

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hello! It's great to see you guys. Isn't it great to be in the house of the Lord? There is something really special about the presence of the Lord when we gather together.

A lot of times people will say something like, I'm glad I came into an environment of faith, or I came into an environment where the power of the Holy Spirit was manifest and you sort of leave with that glow. Isn't that right? And so it's up to us to, in a sense, create that environment.

Second Timothy says to us, stir up the faith; stir up the gift that's within you. Stir it up. So who has to stir it up? (AUDIENCE – we do) We do, right? We stir it up.

I had a friend of mine, a pastor, who said, it's like kind of when you take chocolate milk and you put it in the fridge and then you come back and it's chocolate on the bottom, milk on the top. What do you got to do? (AUDIENCE – stir it up) You got to stir it up. All right? You got to stir it up. We got to do it.

The Holy Spirit is willing and able to move in power, but the choice is ours whether or not we stir it up and act in faith. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

We had a morning of worship last week that was powerful, wasn't it great. We thank the Lord for that, great move of God. The scripture says, great is the Lord and what? Greatly to be praised. There's only one way to do it. What is it? (AUDIENCE – greatly) Greatly. Let's come into the presence of the Lord.

Lift your hands with me like this as a sign of humbling yourself before the throne of God. Lord, it's in our humility and in our worship that we find our victory. You have victory over sickness. You have victory over bondage. You have the victory over our unsaved friends and family. In fact, we're just praying over them now and believing that you would draw near to them and draw them into your kingdom, Father.

Send workers, we pray, into the harvest field. Send us, Lord, here we are. Send us, Father, we ask. And we say to you now in the strong name of Jesus, there is none like you in all the earth. We thank you and we love you, God, and it's in Jesus name we pray, all God's people said, (AUDIENCE – amen) amen.

Turn around and shake the hand of your neighbor and say. God bless you.

### **MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "The Momentum of Faith and Fear"**

We're faith people, aren't we? We're faith people in a faith community. We trust God. We believe God even when the world says it's ridiculous or stupid or wide eyed or crazy. We are faith people and that's why we walk in victory. Amen?

The victory comes from faith, and faith comes from the Word. Faith doesn't come from prayer or from worship or from trying hard, it comes from the Word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by what? (AUDIENCE – the Word) The Word.

We're a faith people, and your pastor is a faith pastor, a faith man. I believe God, I'm believing with you, I'm believing for you. I'm believing in victory with you. You don't stand alone. I believe that we can be led by the Holy Spirit in all things because that's what the scripture says. I believe that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things because that's what it says. Amen? I believe He's going to heal you because that's what it says. I believe that He can speak to us right now, and I believe that when we speak the right words that the Word gives to us, rather than speaking whatever idly comes to us in our emotions, we'll have victory. We trust God, as the song says. We trust God. We believe God. We walk by faith, not by sight. Amen? As I was praying for you this morning, I was listening to that great worship song - this is how I fight my battles. And there's a line "it may look like I'm surrounded," but what, do you remember the second part of that line? (AUDIENCE – but I'm surrounded by you) "But I'm surrounded by you." What a great image that is.

Just imagine this church building being surrounded by demonic armies ready to crush us, or being surrounded by a literal army, or being surrounded by some negative evil thing, and then just picture the outer ring and then an inner ring. I pictured this in my own mind, an inner ring of angels. If you've ever seen an angel, they look like giants. They're like nine feet tall. They're humongous and very scary. And these angel, I picture these angels surrounding the church between us and them and kind of laughing, almost like old soldiers would kind of kick and smoke a cigarette and talk to one another, having a cup of coffee. Well, they're not worried at all. You know who's worried? The enemy. The only way we really lose the victory as believers is when we walk by sight and not by faith. When we set our eyes on the negative, nasty, scary things that come at us, and we don't set our eyes on the promises of God. You can't stand on what you don't know. You need to know the Word of God. You need to memorize the Word of God. You need to say the Word of God aloud. You need to believe the Word of God. You need to train your life in the Word of God, and that's where the victory is. That's what it means to walk by faith and not by sight. Amen. We're a victory church because we're a faith church. Faith is the foundation. It's the foundation. The highest command is love, but love is impossible without faith. Perfect love casts out fear, but perfect fear casts out love. If you're afraid that your spouse is doing this or that, if you're afraid you're trying to be controlled, if you're afraid of your neighbor, you're not going to love them. You have to have faith. You have to believe in something more than what you're seeing. Jesus does not call His disciples, oh, you of little love, does He? Oh, you of little service. What does He call them? Not oh, you of little hope. Not oh, you of little positivity. What does He say? Oh you of little faith. It must be important to Him. Amen? Faith comes by the word. You can't live a moral life without a faith life. You can't live a victory life without a faith life, and faith is saying what the Word says rather than just what you see. We need a church that believes again, and believes for each other. There are going to be times in your life where it's going to be very hard for you to believe God's Word. That's the time you want to have faith people in your life. Amen? We want to have faith people in our life all the time. Thank you, Lord. But it's interesting when Jesus' disciples, really before Pentecost, were walking by sight, even though they had great victory when He sent them out. When you read Luke 9 and 10, chapters 9 and chapters 10, you see that as Jesus is sending out the disciples, they come back and they're like, wow, we were healing the sick. We proclaimed the kingdom. Even the demons fled when we cast them out. Wow, it was this powerful, amazing thing. And you see this growth of the disciples where they become these powerful miracle workers, full of life, full of power, messing up sometimes, but for the most part, doing a pretty good job. I mean, Jesus isn't the only person who's walked on water. Peter did it for a while. I mean, he didn't make it all the way, but if you can get five or six steps on water slowly and then sink, that's still pretty good. Am I right? (AUDIENCE – yes)

And this same Peter denied Christ, didn't he, after the fact of walking on water. So this is something that's really interesting to me. You watch and the disciples are full of life, full of love, full of power, full of the Holy Spirit when Jesus is with them, then when He's crucified, that three day window, it's almost like they become evil. It's like they become as bad or worse than they were before they ever met Jesus. Why? Because they think He's dead. Because they think when all those other people said you're a foolish person following a radical.. this is a cult, or whatever it was they were saying, they're like, they were right. He's dead. Even though He told them this would happen! He told them where He would die. He told them how He would die. He told them how long He'd be dead. And that He would come back from the dead. And He didn't just say it once, He said it many, many, many times. He told them. He told them. The place they're in on Black Sabbath, which is by the way, the name of the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter. It's where the band got their name. Did you know that? (AUDIENCE – no) That's what it's called. I assume that's where they got their name, anyway.

On that Black Sabbath, on that Black Saturday when Jesus is in the grave, they turn into, like, it's not good. And in fact, even before Jesus is dead, before He's crucified, Peter denies Christ three times. Now he literally said he wouldn't do that. He told you, I will never leave you. He's like, I will die with you. Baloney. Once Jesus is arrested and He's being flogged, it's a girl. It's a servant girl. It's not even like a soldier, a big guy, a little servant girl goes, 'I know you. You're with them.' He's like, no. Three times. Three times. It's important. This is important because what we see is that the disciples were walking by sight, right? What did they see? Death. But what was the word of God? Death and resurrection. The Word was life. He had told them this would happen, He told them they would have the victory. Were they standing in faith? No. They were not walking in faith, they were walking by what? (AUDIENCE – by sight) By sight. By what they saw. This is why they became immoral. This is why they became evil. This is why they became wretches again. They're walking by sight, at least some of them. We don't know how all of them did, but the ones that we see, it's not very good. Is that right? And then, of course, when they receive the resurrection power on Pentecost, it changes. But this is important to the story. When Jesus, at the end of John, it's really kind of John's Great Commission, at the very end of John, Jesus.. how many times does Peter deny Christ? Three times. How many times does Jesus ask Peter after the resurrection, Peter, 'do you love me?' Do you remember? Three. This is important. Okay? Peter, do you love me? Yes, Lord, I love you. What does He say? What does Jesus say? Come on, I know I got some students here. Louder! (AUDIENCE – feed my sheep) Feed my sheep. Then He asked him a second time: Peter, do you love me? What does Peter say? Yes, Lord. Then what does Jesus say? Feed my sheep. Third time. In fact, let's bring it up on the screen. The third time He said to him, Simon, son of John. Notice how He's calling him Simon, not Peter right now. Peter means rock. Simon is a Hebrew word – "shimon." It means to obey or to listen. Shimon. In other words, listen. Listen. Shimon. Like "Shama Yisrael." Listen, Shimon. Son of Yohan. Son of John. Do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him for the third time, do you love me? He said, Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you. What does Jesus say a third time? (AUDIENCE – feed my sheep) Feed my sheep. Is it important to Jesus that we feed His sheep? We, His pastors. So really, what He's saying by saying it three times is you want to redeem yourself after you said you'd never leave me, you'd never forsake me, you'd never deny me, and then a little servant girl who couldn't do you any harm at all, you denied me three times to her. You want to redeem yourself? Maybe you could say you want to do me a favor? Feed my sheep! Feed my sheep. What does it mean for God's sheep to be fed? What does it mean for Peter to feed the sheep, do you know? It's not hot dogs and hamburgers? It's not pizza. What is it to feed my sheep? It's this. It's the Word. Teach them all that I've taught you. Teach them. Feed them the Word. Finish this line for me: man cannot live on bread alone (AUDIENCE – but on every word) but on every - some word or every word? (AUDIENCE – every word) Every word that comes from the mouth of God. This is bread. Every word that comes from the mouth of God. Jesus says when His disciples tell Him, Rabbi, you need to eat something, He says, my food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work. Let's declare that together: my food (AUDIENCE – my food) is to do the will (AUDIENCE – is to do the will) of Him who sent me (AUDIENCE – of Him who sent me) and to accomplish His work (AUDIENCE – and to accomplish His work). What is God's will? It's this. This is the will. Amen? The will of God is the Word of God. The will of God is the Word of God. The will of God is the Word of God. There's two ways the Word of God comes to you. It's from Lagos, which is in the Bible, and it's from rhema, the Holy Spirit speaking to you. You guys doing okay so far? (AUDIENCE – yes) It's the will of the Lord. The Word of the Lord. Man cannot live on bread alone. So many believers are starving. Starving. It's amazing in America, the average American can't miss one meal without completely freaking out, but they can go a month without the Word.

They can go a year without the Word, they think. That's how you starve. Amen? There's one other reference that Jesus has to bread. Do you remember what it is? Healing. Healing. Healing is the children's bread. Healing is the children's bread that comes from here. Okay. The will of God is the Word of God. So as His sheep, if we want to be fed, it doesn't mean hot dogs and hamburgers. It doesn't mean pizza. Doesn't even mean a salad. I'm looking at all the healthy people going, I don't eat that stuff, anyway. It's the Word. So just as you get weary without food, you get weary without the Word. The spirit gets weary because it's spirit food. This is why I think we live in the most amazing times ever in history. It's never been easier to sin more, I think, than right now, and it's never been easier to be so understanding of God's Word and life than it is now. Do you know how great a blessing it is the I-Phone that you have? That that has like 200 translations of the Bible on it. Even twenty years ago, as a Bible student, I would have killed for something like that. Not only that, you can get some of the best sermons. You can listen to them all the time as you're driving in traffic and it costs you zero dollars. Please subscribe. Zero dollars. Some of you are doing that now. I do that all the time. It's incredible. When you're feeling down and you need to get close to the Lord, you can put on a worship song as you pray. Do you know how unbelievable that is? And yet it's being wasted. It's being wasted. We need to eat in this trying time, in the end times as angels and demons are fighting over the universe. In trying times like this, God's beloved need to be eating some food. If you're fighting, you need some good food, amen? You need some Word. I remember when a friend of mine who used to go to this church, Chris Jensen, and I were on a hike, Paul; his parents are here, Paul and Charis. Chris and I went on a hike and it was a hot day, and being a couple of young knuckleheads back then, we just decided to go on a hike on a whim with no water or anything, no backpack, and we were in great shape, but we had gone away, and we were not in trouble, but not not in trouble, if you know what I mean. No water, and we were up in the middle, some hill in the middle of nowhere, and we found a wild tangerine tree in the middle of nowhere. I don't know how it's growing there. There's probably something on a water thing underneath, but it was in full bloom with all these tangerines, and we just thanked the Lord for it. And we began to just eat these tangerines. And it was one of those few times I could physically feel with all that sugar and all that juice and calories and all that, I just went from like a one in point five out of ten energy to like an eight almost instantly. Isn't that great? You need nourishment. You need nourishment when you're doing the work of the Lord. Amen?

Declare with me. We already said this, but we're going to say it again. My food (AUDIENCE – my food) is to do the will (AUDIENCE – is to do the will) of Him who sent me (AUDIENCE – of Him who sent me) and to accomplish His work (AUDIENCE – and to accomplish His work). Thank you. Actually, let's say this again, even louder. Healing (AUDIENCE – healing) is the children's bread (AUDIENCE – is the children's bread). I receive the Word (AUDIENCE – I receive the Word). Your Word is a lamp to my feet (AUDIENCE – your Word is a lamp to my feet) and a light unto my path (AUDIENCE – and a light unto my path). I will not walk in darkness (AUDIENCE – I will not walk in darkness). Hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – hallelujah) Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

God works with your words. Jesus teaches us that every idle word that's spoken will be punished. Notice how it's every idle word. What is an idle word? It's something you're not thinking about. Something you're not paying attention to. You're filling it in out there. Those idle words came from somewhere with intention from the enemy. There are good words, like the ones we just said. Those words that we just spoke, do you know God is going to work with those words because you said them aloud. He's going to take what you said because of the authority that's been given to you, and He's going to work with that in the Kingdom. There is momentum to faith, and there is momentum to fear. Momentum. When you haven't read the Bible in a long time, it's hard to read the Bible.

When you've been reading the Bible a lot and digging in with a pen and going nice and slow and googling words and writing it down and making notes, and you've done that for a couple weeks or a month, it's hard not to do it anymore. Somebody say momentum (AUDIENCE – momentum) is that right? If you haven't read the Bible in a while, you don't want to read the Bible. Who knows Newton's first law of motion? An object in motion stays in motion, unless what? Acted on by an outside force. An object at rest stays at rest unless what? It's like a cat, right? That's true with praying. If you don't pray very much, you don't want to pray very much. If you pray all the time, it's hard not to. If you don't worship very much, you don't want to worship very much. But if you worship all the time, it's hard not to. If you walk by faith all the time, it's hard not to walk by faith all the time. Amen? If you share the gospel a lot with your neighbors and pray with people and live out loud for the faith, it's hard to stop doing that. Somebody say momentum. (AUDIENCE – momentum) Momentum is an important part of our walk with God. Don't lose it if you got it, my friend. All of us have been in a season of momentum with God's power, and then we lost it. Who knows that's a terrible feeling? We don't want to lose a momentum. Amen? The words you say out loud; the words you say aloud, they start to stack. They start to stack. I've started noticing this with, like, a lot of songs that I listen to, and I'm starting to prune some of my music because there's a lot of music I'll listen to, and then I start saying the words a loud. Even worse from like when I was in high school. Here's one I was singing last week. Any Beck fans in the house? I'm driving down the road and this literal song was going: (SINGS - so, you can) what they're saying is (SPEAKS SPANISH) And then it goes (SINGS – so SPEAKS SPANISH – I'm a loser, baby, so why don't you kill me) And I'm singing this, Pastor Bobby's not.. idle. Like not. Not just like I speak a little Spanish too. I know what I'm saying. (SINGS IN SPANISH – I'm a loser baby, so why don't you what?) Kill me? Like, what is that lyric? What does that even mean? I caught myself, and I was like, I cancel that assignment. I cancel every time I've said that. And I just began confessing over my life. I win at what I put my hand to. I am victorious. I'm the head and not the tail. I'm above and not beneath. Remember what Psalm says: I shall not die, but I shall live, and I will declare the works of the Lord. See, we don't want to get superstitious, but we also don't want to give idle words like that. God works with our words. The enemy works with our words. Amen? One of the things.. we talk a lot about healing, and we get a lot of criticism from people because there are people who are believing and have not received a miracle, or not received a healing yet. Hannah and I live in that. We have a son named Cohen who has all sorts of health problems. But I can tell you there is a difference for Cohen, even though he's like a two or three year old and can't understand this, there is a difference for my son's health that is directly linked to our faith or fear. For better or worse. We can measure it now. He's been sick for ten years and he continues to get better, but how many of you know for the first two years he wasn't getting better, he was getting worse. Why? Because what would we say? He's getting worse. He's getting worse. Look at him, he's getting worse. What are we doing? We're creating downward momentum for our son. Hannah was, God bless her, was the one that really confronted me and confronted us about our words and about how to deal with that. One of the things we did is if you go into his room, it's just slathered in scriptures on victory and healing. How many of you know my son, he's still a little slow, but he's a pretty healthy guy. Pretty healthy. He likes his French fries from Chick-fil-A, the Lord's chicken. He loves it. We were there yesterday. And in terms of health, he is not in danger anymore. He doesn't really seize, he doesn't have problems. He's a little slow, but I know that is the result of us standing in faith. And a big part of that is doctors, but how many of you know that finding a good doctor versus a bad doctor, finding a good medicine versus a bad medicine, finding a good procedure versus a bad procedure, we don't know. We're not doctors, except for Doctor Cheng and a couple of us. Doctor Cheng's not here, but for those of you who are not doctors.

Anybody here a medical doctor, a physician, don't be embarrassed. I'm not going to call you out, but I've learned that a lot of doctors are guessing. Is that right, doctors? Sometimes you're like, this might work. That might work. We can try this. Who knows that what you're believing and what you're saying during those times are important. They're important. I wouldn't reiterate it so much if I didn't love you so much. I know that this is not just true with sickness, it's true with all things. Sickness and healing, that's a small part of our life, but this is true when it comes to ministry, it's true when it comes to provision, it's true when it comes to sharing the gospel, it's true in your marriage. In fact, one of the things we started saying, we just started saying Cohen is recovering from epilepsy. Is it different to say 'my son has epilepsy' or 'my son is getting worse' to go 'my son is recovering from epilepsy'? Every time we do that, we're planting a seed of faith. Amen? And in fact, Hannah, this is totally not in my sermon. I'm on a tangent for like fifteen minutes here, but Hannah is actually a walking miracle. I think many of you know the story, but when she was twenty-eight years old, she was getting worse and worse with neuropathy and all sorts of neurological issues, and her father, who is a wealthy guy, paid for her to go to Mayo Clinic and it cost \$10,000. Now, with inflation, that's like a million dollars today. Just kidding. It was ten grand, and it's a lot of money back then and today for her to have everything evaluated from head to toe. They diagnosed her with some neuropathy and different issues. And they just said you're going to get worse, you're going to get worse and worse. She already couldn't eat hardly anything. And then they said, you're going to start having joint pain. Here's a joint medication and you're not going to get better. This is going to be worse and worse and worse. Now, if you're a doctor, I understand that you need to say those things, and that's fine. And even if you're a Christian doctor, I'm not saying you don't say what's happening. But Hannah heard that and took it by faith, and who knows she got worse and worse. This is Hannah's words, not mine. All of a sudden it was like, not that long, she'd had this disease for years, all of a sudden, her joints start hurting. It's exactly what was said over her and for about a year she continued to get worse, and it was only when she started standing in faith that she started getting better. In fact, she stood in faith for probably two years with no improvement, and after that two years she was completely healed. And that was, Brittany, was it ten years ago she was healed? Ten years ago now, she has no medicine, she can eat whatever she wants. That is the result of the hard work of walking by faith and not by sight. It's embarrassing when you're sick and you're struggling to say, I'm recovering. I'm getting better. I believe in the Word from the Lord. Amen? She's a walking testimony of the importance of keeping the faith, of standing in faith. Now, this is just a principle that doesn't apply to just healing, it's for everything. For every battle you're in life. We walk by faith, not by sight. Meaning, we walk by what the scripture says. If we walk by only what we see, how is that different than an atheist? How is it practically different than an atheist if you just say, I'm sick; that must be God's will. I lost everything; that must be God's will. Then you need to do that with everything. My kids aren't saved. Must be God's will. No. Here's how we know God's will: He's told us. Amen? What a blessing. So we want to have momentum. We want to understand the momentum of our words. We want to say what is right. Declare with me right now: I am on upward momentum (AUDIENCE – I am on upward momentum). Come on, church. God's doing it in the spirit (AUDIENCE – God's doing it in the spirit). Let's just quote the scripture: I'm blessed in the city (AUDIENCE – I'm blessed in the city). I'm blessed in the field (AUDIENCE – I'm blessed in the field). I'm blessed when I come (AUDIENCE – I'm blessed when I come). I'm blessed when I go (AUDIENCE – I'm blessed when I go). I cast down every stronghold (AUDIENCE – I cast down every stronghold). Sickness and poverty must flee (AUDIENCE – sickness and poverty must flee). The devil is defeated (AUDIENCE – the devil is defeated). I am blessed (AUDIENCE – I'm blessed) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name). Amen. (AUDIENCE – amen)

All right. Now, I haven't really started my sermon, so I'm out of time. What do you think, Diane? All right, here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to actually preach this sermon next service. I'm sorry if that was.. no, but we're going to preach on 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 34. If you want to come back to second service.. choir is stoked right? The don't have to hear the same sermon twice. All I wanted you to catch is that I'm frustrated, really, that the evangelical church stands on the Word, but only for our salvation, which is the most important thing, but not on everything else. And we want to be faith people. Amen?

(AUDIENCE – amen) We stand on salvation. That's the most important thing.

Here's a good question: what happens if you die believing God? What happens if you're sick and you die and you're believing God? Is that so bad? You're going to get to heaven. You're going to get out of that body, be like, whew! And God is going to put His arm around you. He's going to say, here's this, and here's that, and here's this, and x, y, z. We want to believe God every day of our life. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) And we don't want to get in the way of any victory, of any move from the Lord. We don't want to resist the spirit, as Acts 7 says, would never resist the Holy Spirit, but we're going to stand in faith. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Would you stand with me? Lift your hands with me. We are the sons and daughters of the Lord. We are the righteousness of God made new through the cross and resurrection of our brother Jesus Christ, the uncreated essence of the Father in the flesh, who laid down His life for us. He who knew no sin became sin that we could be the righteousness of God.

Father, we're asking that the spirit, the new created spirit within us that's identical to Jesus, would light up and that the soul would get out of the way. We pray, Father, that the spirit, the renewed man, the renewed woman within us would transform our mind into the mind of Christ. Transform our soul, which is our will, our emotions and our thoughts, to transform all of that, not to the pattern of this world, but to your kingdom.

Lord, we want to be led by the Holy Spirit in all things. Lord, we know where the spirit of the Lord is, we know where freedom is. Ask us. We're asking, Lord, that your Holy Spirit would lead us. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power and of love and a sound mind. We're asking for that, Lord, and we're asking that that same spirit within us, the renewed spirit that's identical to Jesus, would emanate out of us into our bodies. There are some people here that might have a sickness they don't even know about. Just heal it, God. Just heal it. They don't want to ever know. Nobody needs to know. We just pray you'd heal it. For those here who do have a sickness, we're just believing for them now and believing with them now that slowly as a seed grows, that the Word of God in their heart will grow as they water it, as they treat it, that the spirit inside of them will heal their body. We're believing with you.

If you're sick and if you have some challenge, we're believing that you're recovering from whatever it is you're facing. We're standing with you that you're walking in victory now, in Jesus name. Church, repeat after me: I'm walking in victory (AUDIENCE – I'm walking in victory). I'm walking in healing (AUDIENCE – I'm walking in healing). I'm walking in good sleep (AUDIENCE – I'm walking in good sleep). I'm walking in good work (AUDIENCE – I'm walking in good work). I'm walking in the spirit (AUDIENCE – I'm walking in the spirit) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name). All God's people said (AUDIENCE – amen) amen.