

GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hello. You ready for some joy? The joy of the Lord is your strength. Amen?

Today we're going to enter into worship, and we want to prepare ourselves, prepare our hearts and minds. We're grateful to have Meredith Mauldin leading us today. And Romans 12, at the beginning it says, present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God for this is your true act of (AUDIENCE – worship) of worship. Now what do you present? You present your (AUDIENCE – body) your body. So as not a dead sacrifice, right? A living sacrifice.

A lot of times in the Western Church, it can seem weird that we lift our hands; like people feel weird when they come to church to see a church that lifts their hands, or bows their head, or kneels. But the church globally does that, and although I met a lot of churches in the West don't like to do that, that is a scriptural way to worship.

Now all of us will be led in different ways, but who here knows that what you do with your body is an important part of your worship. Amen! It's not just the angels that prostrate fall. Amen? This is so important. And I just want to encourage everyone today not to do anything that I tell you to do, but to be listening to the Spirit, and to present in your own honest way, whether it's just a humble bowing of the head or the raising of the hands or the holding, do something with your body. Martin Luther told us we always ought to do something with our bodies when we pray and when we worship. I think that's a good word, don't you?

Let's lift our hands now together as a congregation. Father, we bring, we present our bodies before you as a living sacrifice. In fact, the sacrifice is what brings us life. We live because you live. Thank you, Lord. We pray that your Holy Spirit would move in power. We ask for the anointing, the oil to fall upon your people. Just as you poured out your oil on King David, you pour it out on us and we receive the anointing of the Lord. We thank you, God. And we thank you. Hallelujah! And it's in Jesus name we pray, all God's people said "amen".

Before we sing, turn to your neighbor, pass the peace and wish them a good morning.

DECLARATION/MARK 11 – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with me? We're taking a break from the Creed for a while. We're going to say this scripture. My hope is that we'll say long enough that you'll get it in your guts. This is one of the most challenging Bible verses, but we need it because we want to be faith people. And I want you to pay attention to how often Jesus says, "say"; that if you had the faith, you would say.

Hold your hands like this. Let's say it together: Have the faith of God. 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 of your sins. Amen. That scripture preaches itself, doesn't it?

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Open the Eyes of Your Heart"

Today we're going to ask the Lord, as the book of Ephesians says, to open our eyes. To open the eyes of our hearts. Who's ready to have the eyes of your heart open? Is anyone surprised? Did you catch that? Your heart has eyes. Your head has eyes, your heart has eyes, too. And many of our heart eyes, our spiritual eyes, the eyes that see beyond the veil; many of our heart eyes are closed.

Today, the Holy Spirit wants you to open the eyes of your heart. Amen? You want to have your eyes open today? You want them squinted, or do you want them open?

(AUDIENCE – open) I want them open. Amen? So we're going to talk about that. That means to have spiritual eyes, to have a spiritual mind, to have a faith mind. Amen! All of us, I believe, I think every person wants to have a holy life, meaning a good life. Even bad people want to have a good life, actually, did you know that? Have you noticed how immoral people always blame someone else? Why not just take ownership of it? Do you ever notice how the thief always blames the guy - he shouldn't have left his wallet out. This is the person who deep down inside desires holiness. They want to be good, but they're unable to make the change. Amen?

All of us want it. Even sinners want it. I'm telling you, and this is why, instead of owning that I'm a rotten person, I'm a sinner, I'm a this or that, most people move the goalposts. I'm not a bad person. This is okay.

All of us want a holy life, and the reason so many people, all of us who want a holy life, are feeling frustrated is because the answer we've gotten is a religious one, not a spiritual one. The answer has been try harder. Learn the rules. Try harder. Who here knows that never, ever, ever works. Read the book of Romans. It will show you that all that does is kill. It kills. It crushes. Not because the law is evil, but because we in our sinful nature are unable to obey it. Our old self is unable to obey it. So what has to happen? The old self has to die. A new self has to be raised. That's the spiritual life.

A holy life doesn't come from a trying harder life, a holy life comes from opening the eyes of our heart. Living in the Spirit. It's actually easy to live a holy life, if you walk in the Spirit. It's not hard. In fact, if you walk in the Spirit, it's hard not to live a holy life. It comes naturally. Is that good news for some people? (AUDIENCE – yes) Who knows that's the gospel, too. The Bible says that the law of the Lord is written on our hearts. You know the very finger of God wrote the law on the tablets from Moses, that finger represents.. it's a type of the Holy Spirit. And in the same way, the scriptures tell us that the Lord just writes goodness on our hearts. We need to open the eyes of our hearts. Opening the eyes of our hearts is what leads to a victory life. Amen?

Before we get to our scripture, I just want to establish some things we've already talked a lot about in this church, but it's good to revisit them. Number one, when you see in the spirit, you are seeing what's really happening. Now in the natural, the world says what you see is what's really happening. That's an opinion. We have a different opinion. We know the truth. What is happening in the spirit is actually more real than what's happening in the natural. Someday when you go to heaven, when you die, that will be much more like waking up than it will be like falling asleep because the spiritual world is in a way more real than the natural world. It has a bigger impact on the natural world than the things happening in the natural world do. And when you can see in that world, faith stirs, holiness stirs, goodness stirs, victory stirs.

I remember, I don't know if I've ever told this story in this church, and I frankly don't know if I should, but I'm going to. When we were a part of the Reformed Church, which I still love, and the Dutch Reformed Church is my spiritual home. My father, grandfather, uncles, they're all missionaries and pastors in that tradition. And I remember when we were being crushed by our last church property we were renting from the Catholic church, our rent was \$60,000.. no, \$75,000 a month. That is a lot of money every month. That's a lot of plate passing, isn't it? We needed to get out of that.

I remember, I just in faith declared somebody's going to give us a building. They're just going to give us a church building. And some of the people on our team, because we're all friends, they kind of laughed at me. That's fine.

We just started looking and this opportunity came up to merge with Irvine Presbyterian, but the key was we would have to join the Presbyterian Church. And I remember saying aloud when Russ called me, I was driving down.. I know exactly where I was. I know the road. I almost tongue in cheek, said to the Lord, 'Lord, would you have me be Presbyterian?' Like BLAH.

I don't know why, the Reformed and Presbyterian are pretty similar, but it's a Lakers/Celtics thing. I said 'would you ever have us be Presbyterian?' And very strongly the Lord said 'do not call unclean what I have called clean.' And I don't hear from the Lord like that very often. And I wasn't like really asking. I just kind of blurted it out. The second I heard that word from the Lord, I had utter peace, a hundred percent knew it was going to happen. Like it wasn't like maybe this will happen, I was like, oh, it's going to happen. Can I tell you that that actually spiritually put me in a much better place for the journey that we went on because there were things. There was this one guy, I won't say his name, but he'd seemed like he was trying to mess up the thing. And I'm the fighter. And normally I would get agitated and argue and I just, I'm like God's got this. It's going to work out. I had so much faith.

Because here's what faith is. Faith is believing what God said. It's not just believing. We can receive Word of God. The best way to receive the Word of God is the Word of God, the Bible. But who here knows that you can hear from God, too, and you can stand on a spoken rhema word from God.

Yes, it's funny, I was at a pastor conference on Friday that really touched my heart, and I saw an old friend, Darren, and I was with Pastor Michael, Meredith's husband, and we saw our old friend Darren, and I said, Darren, how are you doing? He said, I'm good. And I said, man, you should join the Presbyterian church. And he goes, I'll never be Presbyterian. And we went back to our table and Michael and I looked at each other, Michael goes, he messed up. I'm like, I know. The last thing, you guys, the last thing you say is I'm never going to go there and serve God in that way. I saw him later and I was like, Lord, here's your servant, Darren, who will do anything for you, anything except become Presbyterian. Some of you are like, I will never serve the Lord in Hawaii. Send me anywhere, God.

Number one, when you see in the spirit, you're going to see what's really happening and it gives you faith, amen? Number two, if things change in the spirit, they will change in the natural. It's unstoppable. If they change in the spirit, they'll change in the natural. They just will. It's like in 1st Samuel, Hannah, the Prophet Samuel's mother, Hannah, when she's barren, she is just in her head. She's an emotional basket case. She wants a child. She's crying out to God. She's pleading with the Lord. Year after year, year after year, no child, no answer from God.

And then Eli says, woman, why are you drunk and all this stuff? She says, I'm not drunk. I need a baby. And Eli, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says, it will be done for you. And after that, nothing has changed. She's not pregnant now. She's not pregnant. Nothing changed, but something changed in the spirit and it was confirmed in her heart. She knew that when the high priest, Eli said, it's going to be done, that's all she needed. A word from the Lord. Repeat after me: Faith (AUDIENCE – faith) comes by hearing (AUDIENCE – comes by hearing) and hearing (AUDIENCE – and hearing) by the Word of God (AUDIENCE – by the Word of God). So this is what faith is. Faith is believing God's Word. And that's what Hannah did, and that's why she got the baby.

Number three. Number two, if things change in the spirit, they change the natural. And finally, number three, if you walk by sight, you will be constantly discouraged, just constantly. Constantly. You say, it seems like, it seems like, I mean, I know the Bible says this, but it seems like, it seems like, it seems like. Where in the Bible do you read we walk by seems like? Where? We walk by (AUDIENCE – faith) faith. And faith is what you read, and what you hear. Faith. Faith is rhema and logos.

What is logos? The Word of God. That's the written Word of God, what we have here - what is rhema? The spoken word of God. The spoken Word of God, the written Word of God. The sword in the spirit - is that logos or rhema? It's rhema. The sword of the spirit is rhema. The sword of the spirit is not what you read, it's what you say. Hallelujah. If you walk by sight, you're going to be discouraged.

If you walk by sight, you're going to be agitated and worried. If you walk by faith, you're going to try and manufacture victory.

The just shall live by faith. By faith. By faith. Faith is righteousness. Did you know that? Romans tells us faith is righteousness. Paul points to Abraham, who never had the law. What did he have? What did he have, Hannah? He had faith! He had faith! And it was accredited to him as what? Righteousness. If you believe God, you'll be made righteous. Amen?

Declare with me: I am a faith person (AUDIENCE – I am a faith person). I trust the Word of God (AUDIENCE – I trust the Word of God). I walk by faith (AUDIENCE – I walk by faith), not by sight (AUDIENCE – not by sight). I fear the Lord (AUDIENCE – I fear the Lord). I do not fear man (AUDIENCE – I do not fear man). Hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – hallelujah) Come on. Hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – Hallelujah!) Thank you, Lord. All right.

We got to see in the spirit. Amen? Lord, open the eyes of our heart. We want to see you. Someone say, I see the Lord (AUDIENCE – I see the Lord). We see you, God. We see you, Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling all creation. That is our hope. That is our faith. I see something, man. I see something in His church. I see something in this church. You guys, oh, God. The same way that the Lord confirmed to me about being a Presbyterian, He has confirmed this to me - revival is coming to this church. It is coming. It's not only coming, we can't stop it. And it's not just this church. This church is actually a small part of the big thing God's going to do in Orange County.

In fact, I know we're in the middle of a sermon, but let's just pray for that. We're Shepherd's Grove. We're a tree in the grove. We're not the grove. And so, Father, we pray that your trees would bear fruit, and we pray for every church in Orange County this morning. We pray that they'd be full of the Holy Spirit. Maybe you can think of a church you want to pray for. We lift every church up we can think of. The churches across the street: Mariner's, Saddleback, the small churches we may not know the names; Lighthouse, City Church, Free Chapel, Influence Church, Oceans Church, Saint Andrews, Trinity. Every church we can think of, and every church we can't think of. There's one church in Orange County. We pray that it would be blessed, and we ask that we could be a part of the revival that's coming. We see it, we see it, and we thank you, God. Who agrees with that? (AUDIENCE – amen) Amen. In Jesus name. Hallelujah.

I'm sorry. Let's open your Bibles to Colossians. Colossians. The Word of God is food. The Word of God is food for hungry souls. Hungry spirits. This is a long one. We're going to jump right in. Dallas Willard, my father in the faith, said that Colossians 3 is the most important scripture to memorize for disciples.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ. Set your hearts." Somebody say set. (AUDIENCE – set) Okay, we're going to come back to that word. "Set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." Somebody say set (AUDIENCE – set). "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died in your baptism. You died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

"So put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:" Tell me this doesn't sound like America. "Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed" greed, "which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways in the life you once lived, but now you must also rid yourselves" of these things, or "of such things as these:" tell me this doesn't sound like America. "Anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips." If you are a Christian, stop cussing and cursing. You stop. "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in the knowledge in the image of its creator."

"Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian," a Scythian are those horse archers that are like Mongols. They're the worst. "Slave or free.

But Christ is all, and is in all." What does that mean? It means all of these people are the church. All these people are the body of Christ. The Scythian and the Jew. They're both a big part of God's kingdom.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy." Somebody say I am holy (AUDIENCE – I am holy) "and dearly loved." Somebody say I am dearly loved (AUDIENCE – I am dearly loved). "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Does America need people like that? (AUDIENCE – yes) It does. "Bear with each other and forgive one another. If any one of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues, put on what" (AUDIENCE – love) "love." That's the great command "which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful."

Now, a lot of people who grew up in very religious, strict churches, they read that and it's wearisome to them. Here's what their spirit or their soul, here's what their soul says: I'm trying. And here's what they just heard: try harder. Did the scripture say try harder? (AUDIENCE – no) No. Somebody say set (AUDIENCE – set). That's what it said. It didn't say try harder. It said die and set. Die to your old life and set what? Said it twice - your heart and your mind. Set. Set. You set it. You set it.

What's something in your house that you might set? (AUDIENCE – a clock) A lock? A clock? That's a good one. Both of those are good. Here's the one I thought of: a thermostat. What's the right temperature for a thermostat? Somebody say it depends on if.. just kidding. If you're Irish or not.

You set the thermometer. Okay? You set the thermometer and you leave it. You set the thermometer and you leave it. And then what happens? The atmosphere changes, but not right away. You set the thermostat, then the atmosphere changes, but it takes some time, especially at my house. It takes like two hours, but it'll get there. Amen?

If you set your mind on things above, your atmosphere will change. Your life will change. But you need to set. Set doesn't mean put it on there for a minute and then leave. It doesn't mean a 30-minute quiet time. That's good. It means set. You set your mind. You set your heart.

Too many Christians don't have thermostat minds. They have thermometer minds. The atmosphere changes them. Too many. It's like, it seems like, it seems like, it feels like, it looks like. And here's your heart going to 99 degrees and 30 degrees. It's just everywhere. You are not a thermometer. You're the thermostat. Your old life was a thermometer. You're a thermostat. You set. Set what? Your heart and your mind on things above. Amen.

We need a new spiritual mind. That's why the scripture says put on the mind of Christ in Philippians 2. Scripture says, do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the what? Renewing of your mind. The scripture says to be carnally minded is - death. To be spiritually minded - is life and peace. You can be spiritually minded, and that's what we want. Amen?

Declare with me: I have spiritual eyes (AUDIENCE – I have spiritual eyes). They're fixed on things above (AUDIENCE – they're fixed on things above). I see the Lord (AUDIENCE – I see the Lord). The scales are coming off (AUDIENCE – the scales are coming off). Come on church. I see the victory (AUDIENCE – I see the victory) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Again, the goal for a disciple of Jesus Christ is to walk with the Holy Spirit in mind, listening to His voice. There's too many religious people that think this sounds taxing and religious and hard to do. It's really not. It's taxing like the way breathing is taxing and hard to do all the time. Amen? Who here likes to breathe without ceasing? Anybody like to breathe without ceasing? It's a lot of work. I mean, you got, (BREATHING HEAVY) all the time, even when I'm sleeping? Amen.

We need to breathe in the spirit. You need to see in the spirit.

What if, just picture this for a minute, my friend. What if walking in the spirit was like breathing for you? What if every morning you woke up immediately in the presence and the leading of the spirit, and even though the world was coming at you like this, you refuse to be a thermometer. You're a thermostat. And what if in every decision and in every conflict and every loss and every difficulty, every challenge, you were walking in the spirit, just asking, okay, Lord, what are you doing? And if in every moment, even the small things when you were cooking or when you're eating, when you're working or doing emails, you're still in the spirit. What would your life be like if you did that?

And if every night you went to bed into the arms of the Father at peace, and even when you sleep, you slept in the spirit and you woke up in the spirit. What would your life be like if you did that? What would it be like? It would be a life of victory. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) A life of peace. Amen? Who wants that in your life? You could just do it. Just choose to do it. Amen? Just choose to do it.

Who cares about the world? Who cares about what people think? I just don't care anymore. I care about what the Lord thinks and wants from Bobby. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) So we got to walk in the spirit.

Here's what walking in the spirit looks like. It means logos in one hand and the spirit in the other. Rhema. Logos and rhema. Logos and rhema. Logos and rhema. Okay? Logos and rhema. And number one, we got to read the Bible often and publicly. Publicly is important. Read the Bible at work. Read the Bible at the DMV. What if you read your Bible instead of pulling out your phone? You think you might have some interesting conversations? Something would train in your heart to be a public Christian if you read your Bible in public. We don't need any more private Christians. We need some public believers praying for people, believing for people, encouraging one another.

We got to read the Bible, but we also need to be hearing from the spirit. The Bible helps us know if it's the spirit or the enemy. The Bible is the contract, it's the covenant, it's everything we need to know, but we also got to be hearing from the Holy Spirit. The Bible is more important, I think, but still, you got to listen. Jesus did not say my sheep read the Bible. What did He say? My sheep hear my voice, hear my voice, hear my voice, hear my voice. Amen. Hear my voice. We need to be listening and paying attention to the checks and the prompts and the move in the spirit. Amen?

The Spirit of God and the Word of God always work together, both of them. They're always helping each other. The Spirit of God wrote the Word of God. The Word of God confirms the Spirit of God. In this hand in hand, two to tango thing, I think is at the heart of the spiritual life.

Now I'm curious how many here in the church, we've been talking about being led by the spirit almost a lot this whole year off and on. How many of you, you feel like you're starting to get it, like you're starting to learn. That's a lot of hands. That's really good. We praise the Lord for that. How many of you feel like it's changed your life? Anybody? Wow, wow. Keep your hand up. Look around. Changed your life? We thank the Lord for that.

Now this shows you how important it is. I think most believers today, all believers, there is not one tradition I can think of that does not believe we can hear from God. Catholics believe it, Sensationists believe it, Baptists believe it, Reformed believe it. So whether you're charismatic or not, everybody believes you can hear from God.

And yet, if you ask most Christians, do you hear from God, I think 99% are saying, no. I want to, I'd like to, the Bible says I can, Jesus tells us we need to. I can't. And this is why I think it's so important, not only that we practice this, but we teach others. If you have other friends that are believers that want to hear, I want you to encourage them and help them, in a humble way, to hear from the Lord. Amen? Checks, prompts. Trust in the Lord with all your (AUDIENCE – heart) heart, not your understanding. See, that's what gets in the way. The second major, major problem that gets in the way is fear. And I think I'm going to come back to this next week because I have a lot I want to say about this.

I don't want to hurry, but let me just say that that is a major, major barrier to hearing from God is fear and worry. And ironically, the solution is hearing the spirit, reading the Word, and walking according to the Word and not according to what scares you. I've got a really good snake story, but it's going to wait till next week. Amen? Will you come back next week to hear my snake story? Only a couple of you said yes, but I'm grateful for that. And praise the Lord for that.

And I forgot. If you don't subscribe, there's no snake story. You got to subscribe. Just kidding. Subscribing is important, though. If you want to learn more, subscribe.

Stand with me. Now, if you're new to this church, you might be like why do we always say this stuff? Who here knows that we read the scripture that tells us why we say, why we say. It's important if you've never heard the voice of the Lord to say not I want to hear the voice of the Lord, but to say, I hear the voice of the Lord. I know to worldly ears, that don't make any sense. This is the Christian way. This is the Christ way.

If you've said in your heart, I never hear the voice of the Lord, you don't say, I want to or I'm going to, you say, I hear. I already hear. I hear, I hear, I see, I see. Not I'm going to open the eyes of my heart. You say, my eyes in my heart are open. You're declaring what already is. This is true with sickness, too. If you're sick, if you're battling, you don't say, God's going to heal me. That's faithful and that's good. You say I'm healed. And if you're battling with sin, even though you've been baptized, you don't say I'm going to be saved. We all get that. You say, I'm saved! Amen?

That declaration sets you free because number one, God is outside of time. But number two, it's His word that is true. If the Bible says, I hear the voice of the Shepherd that means I hear the voice of the shepherd. Amen? Okay. We don't need a second sermon.

Lift your hands with me! Let's chase after God. Repeat after me: I hear (AUDIENCE – I hear) the voice (AUDIENCE – the voice) of the Lord (AUDIENCE – of the Lord). The eyes (AUDIENCE – the eyes) of my heart (AUDIENCE – of my heart) are open (AUDIENCE – are open). The ears (AUDIENCE – the ears) of my soul (AUDIENCE – of my soul) hear clearly (AUDIENCE – hear clearly) the voice (AUDIENCE – the voice) the voice (AUDIENCE – the voice) of the Lord (AUDIENCE – of the Lord). I love the Lord (AUDIENCE – I love the Lord), and I obey the Lord (AUDIENCE – and I obey the Lord) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Let's give the Lord a shout of praise. We thank you, Lord. We thank you, Lord. Amen. Amen. Let's begin to worship. Just at the end, we lift up the name of the Lord. Thank you, God.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Sing with me (SINGS – great, great are you Lord). Hallelujah. Come on (SINGS – great are you Lord) Hallelujah. (SINGS – great are you Lord) Thank you, Lord. Open your heart, come on. (SINGS – great are you Lord) One more. Hallelujah. (SINGS – great are you Lord) Hallelujah. Amen.

Open your hearts and your hands like this for the benediction. 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 peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Have a great Sunday. We love you all. God bless you.