

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

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Welcome. Who's ready to worship today? Worship, in many ways, is a choice. We have to choose to move the soul out of the way so that the spirit can connect with the Lord.

We want to do that today. Amen? We want to open our hearts and our minds and turn them to the Lord. The Bible says to humble yourself. I can't think of any scripture that says God's going to humble you. He tells us to humble ourselves. He lays low the proud, but very often who knows that when the proud are laid low, they're still proud? Is that right? We have to humble ourselves. He lifts up the humble. Amen?

Who wants to be lifted up today by the Holy Spirit? We got to humble ourselves. Father, we come into your house humbled in Jesus name. We do the things that show that we are in the presence of the King. King Jesus, Lord of lords. We lift you up. The scripture says, if you would be lifted up, that you would draw all men unto you.

We lift you up today, Father, and we ask that the name and the blood and the covenant of Jesus would surround us and guard us. Holy Spirit, draw us closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. Draw us into His presence. Father, we thank you. We enter your gates with thanksgiving. We enter your courts with praise, and it's in Jesus name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

Turn to your neighbor, pass the peace, welcome them. Say God loves you, and so do I.

## **PRAYER – Hannah Schuller**

I'm going to share a testimony. I got to share it in the second service. But a woman named Karen came to our Night of Worship, and beforehand, we got to lay hands on her for healing. She was deaf in one of her ears, having a bunch of problems, and we laid hands on her, and she told me it was about five weeks later that her ear was completely open.

And she went to the doctors, and they're like, you no longer need hearing aids.

And then she said it was three different doctors, her PCPEMT and audiologist, all said that her eardrum was turned and descending, turned and descending, and that after this time, they did another test and it was completely in the correct place. She goes no doctor could ever do that. Only Jesus. Thank you, Lord. Hallelujah! Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. She wrote me a whole letter and she particularly told me to thank the congregation, all those who laid hands on her. It is powerful when we lay hands on each other in the name of Jesus, the Bible says, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.

I want to pray, actually, ask the Lord, just as I'm up here praying to give me whatever it is that He wants to be prayed over in this service. And so today I actually felt, as I was coming up to pray against the spirit of fear, and to pray for knees. So we're going to do that today.

I'm going to pray the spirit of fear. we're going to command that fear to go. If you feel like you've struggled with fear, and maybe you're like, I didn't even realize I was struggling with fear, but this, this and this, I've been thinking about it nonstop and been fearing it.

First, if you have any knee issues, or if you're watching online and you have any issues, just put your hands on your knees. If you have any knee issues at all, can you raise your hand, and we're going to have people.. yes, can you put hands over here. Anybody with their hand raised, make sure.. up here.. there is power when we lay hands on each other.

Any knee issues, if you can raise your hands.. right over here. We have a couple. Can we have some people come over here? Wonderful. Kay and Ruth, over here. Over here.

Family of God, there is power when we lay hands on each other. Over here. Wonderful.

We're going to pray, and I even encourage you right now, check your knees right now. See what level of pain they are, what level of uncomfortable, and then we're going to pray and I'm going to have you check them afterwards. So, Father God, we come before you, Lord. We thank you that you are in this place, that you are in the sanctuary, that you are with us, that you are the Lord, our healer. Thank you, God, for the blood.

Right now I speak over every person who had their hand raised, and if they're watching online and had their hands on their knees, we speak over those knees right now. We command the spirit of knee issues, knee pain, all knee soreness to go now from these ones in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Be gone. You with your hand raised, receive now your healing. Receive it now in those knees in the name of Jesus. Take it now in Jesus name. Thank you, Lord.

Now, Lord, I pray over all of us here, Father. Father, you tell us in your Word do not fear that you've not given us a spirit of fear. So I command right now in the name of Christ Jesus, we renounce you spirit of fear. You are not welcome here. You are not allowed here. You are not allowed in the people of God. We are fearless in the Lord. We do not allow fear to linger on us. We are courageous. Thank you, Lord. We command the spirit of fear to go. Go from this place. Go to every person under the sound of my voice now, in the name that is above every name, the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Hallelujah! We receive the peace of God, the courageousness of God, and the fearlessness of God now, in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, amen. Amen. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

If we just prayed for your knees in the name of Jesus, just start moving those knees around. Act your faith. Do something you couldn't do before we prayed, and remember whether you felt instant relief just now or it feels the same in the physical realm. Even as Karen, she was like, no, I just was prayed over and for her it was about five weeks until the full manifestation, but hold on to that. So thank you Lord.

Would you stand with us? Let's worship our incredible God that is among us now. Let's worship Him with all that is within us. Let's stir ourselves and give Him everything we have now. Lord, we worship you. Holy, holy, holy. We thank you, Lord that you are among us now. Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord.

### **DECLARATION - Bobby**

Would you stand with us? Hold your hands like this. We're going to say this scripture together until the Lord tells us not to. Let's say this 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!

### **MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "The Lord's Inheritance"**

Today I'm going to continue on the conversation. Unfortunately, I'm not going to tell you the snake story. I know. I said I would. I'll try and do it next week. It's a good story. It's about how I stepped on a snake. But not today. Will you come back next week if I tell you the snake story?

Today we're going to continue on the theme of talking about opening the eyes of the heart. And I spoke on this issue of soulishness versus the spirit, but I feel like it needs to be revisited because I didn't understand how few people understand the difference between the soul and the spirit, and how important that is in the spirit-lived life.

We want to return to do some heavy lifting today, especially looking into Greek and about how we ought to read our Bibles when we get to some of these words. The English, or whatever language you're in can be deceiving, sometimes.

But we sing the song and we say many times in the Ephesian prayer, "Open the eyes of my heart." Is that a good prayer? Open the eyes of my heart. What we're saying is, Father, we want to be spirit-lead. We remember that our heart, that our spirit has eyes. Is that interesting? The heart has eyes, but many of those eyes in the church today are closed. The heart has ears, but many of the ears of our hearts are deaf. So we need a miracle, don't we? We need to be healed. We need the eyes of our heart to be enlightened.

We need the ears of our heart to be open. And when we do that, when we're led by the Lord, when we see God in the spirit, everything changes in our life.

One of the fun things about being a spirit-led person is you get to know the person of God. We forget that God has a personality. Did you know God has this.. you may not like this, God has a sense of humor. Who here knows that God is the most joyful person in the universe? Is that right? God is the most joyful person in the universe. He's not worried about anything.

I was praying recently, and I was praying in the spirit, and I was in a deep, deep time, and I was praying.. this sounds silly to probably a lot of people, but it was bothering me that this building faced West. Now all the churches, all the churches in the old world always face what direction? (AUDIENCE – east) East. Towards what city? Jerusalem. And the reason they faced east is because it's a way of saying this church looks forward to the coming of the Lord. When we gather, we're looking east to the return of Jesus Christ. And in fact, the term “orient,” what does that mean? East. Right? It means east. When you say the orient or oriental means eastern. And so when we orient ourselves, that's a Christian idea of fixing our heart and our minds towards Jerusalem. We're oriented towards the east, which, by the way, is that way and west is that way.

I guess in a very.. this will make more sense, but in a very soulish way, I was praying, 'Lord, our church faces west. It's like our back is towards Jerusalem. I was like our church should be facing east.' And I'm like kind of praying in this intense way. And nothing. I hear nothing from the Lord. And I swear the Holy Spirit said to me, 'if you go west long enough, you'll get to Jerusalem.' And it was funny, it was funny. And I thought to myself, okay, then what the Lord was doing was gently rebuking me. Just relax about some of this stuff. Just relax. It's okay it faces west. It's not a big deal.

Now, if we ever build another building, maybe we'll build it towards the east anyway. But my point in saying that is God's a person with a personality.

Now, if you've grown up in a very strict religious environment, that might feel odd to you to hear that maybe God would tell a joke to His son, but it helped me because I have a sense of humor, too. God speaks to us, very often, in our own language.

Today, what we want to do is if we want to be led by the spirit, I feel very strongly that as believers, we need to understand some Greek, and we need to understand and discern in the Bible the difference between what the soul is and what the spirit is. The soul is not the spirit. The spirit is not the soul. And in fact, we're going to use this word that's not an English word, it's really a Scandinavian word, but we want to discern. So if there's an adjective to spirit, what is it? Somebody say spiritual. (AUDIENCE – spiritual) If there's an adjective to soul, what would it be? Soulsh.

That word exists in Greek, but not in English, but we're just going to use it. So we need to discern in our walk what is soulsh and what is spiritual. It's not the same. What is soulsh and what is spiritual. The word “soulsh” is in the Bible many times. So the word for soul is “psuche” - the adjective is “psuchikos.” Just like the word for spirit is.. oh wait, did I do that backwards? Is pneuma, sorry, I went blank. Pneuma and pneumatikos is spiritual.

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23. Turn your Bibles to 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:23. Thessalonians comes after Colossians, comes after Philippians. First Thessalonians 5:23, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” That's the three parts of a human being, okay? The spirit, the soul, and the body. Is the spirit and the soul the same? No. This is a problem, actually, I've heard in a lot of East Asian languages. I know Korean and Japanese, Sinae, is this right? Have the word for soul and spirit is kind of the same word. It's like soul/spirit. But in Greek there's a differentiation between soul and spirit, so it's a challenge for the Koreans, I guess. But we'll figure it out. Anyway.

There's a difference. Here's what the soul is. The soul is the will, the intellect and the emotions. Now we praise God for the soul, don't we? Who here is grateful for their soul?

I am. The soul is the will. I'm grateful I have a will. I'm grateful I can push through things. I'm grateful I have desires. The soul is the intellect. I'm grateful I can think! Right? Sometimes my wife proves me wrong. Most of the time I could think. But I'm thankful I can think; I can reason.

I'm grateful I can feel! A lot of men in particular feel like ashamed of their emotions. No? Who here knows emotions are a gift, right? It's good to have emotions. Those are all a part of our soul, but they're not the spirit. And the soul says, I want, I desire, that's the will. The soul says, I think or I reason or the soul says.. the emotions, what would it say? I feel, right?

The important is to understand that to be a Christian does not mean being soul-led. If your decision is feelings-led, if your decision is reason-led, if your decision is desire-lead, it's not spirit-lead. Now, there's lots of fine decisions you can make that are not spirit-lead, but in life, we want to be as spirit-lead as possible. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

Here's what the spirit is. The spirit is different from the soul. The spirit is the part of you that was reborn in your baptism and your confession on faith of Jesus Christ. Here's a great way to say it: your spirit is identical to Jesus Christ. You are the same on the inside as Jesus. First Corinthians 6:17 says, "He who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him." One what? (AUDIENCE – spirit) Spirit. Okay?

Galatians says "It is no longer I live, but" what? (AUDIENCE – Christ) "Christ, who lives in me." Amen? Colossians says "your life is hidden with Christ in God." Second Corinthians 5 says, "You are a new creation." "He who knew no sin became sin that I would be the righteousness of God." Hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – hallelujah) I said, hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – hallelujah) Is that good news? (AUDIENCE – yes) I am the same in the spirit as the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now I am not Jesus, but I'm made righteous like Him. I'm given His authority, and I'm given His power because I've been born of the spirit; born from above, as John 3 says, amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Amen. Who believes that? (AUDIENCE – yes)

What's in the way? The soul. The soul is in the way. Many of us have elevated as Christians the soul above the spirit, and that's wrong. The soul and the flesh need to come below the spirit. It's the spirit in you, the reborn spirit that has all the healing power. It's the spirit in you that has the ability to speak the oracles of God. It is the radio. It's God's radio antenna. Amen? It's the radio antenna. It's the reborn person in us that's already perfect, already made new through the grace of Jesus Christ by faith. Amen? Hallelujah.

What we want to do is that spirit is the source of healing, revelation, and sanctification.

And the soul needs to come under the spirit. Okay? That's why we got to know the difference. We have to notice the difference between what is spiritual and what is soulish.

Declare with me: on the inside (AUDIENCE - on the inside), I am identical to Jesus (AUDIENCE – I am identical to Jesus). It is no longer I who live (AUDIENCE – it is no longer I who live), but Christ who lives in me (AUDIENCE – but Christ who lives in me). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Turn with me to Matthew chapter 16. If you have your Bibles and I know you do. Come on y'all, Matthew chapter 16. That's an easy one to find. Now we're going to read the Bobby Schuller version, okay? The BSV. Oh that's not good. Let's call it.. not the BSV. Look.. my name.. it's a challenge, isn't it? Bobby Schuller is BS. My real name is Robert, so RS. How about this. The Pastor Bobby version - the PBV. Hey we're going to read the PBV. If you're sick of getting the BSV and you want more PBV, you subscribe. Amen? And if you're subscribed, you turn on your notifications and you like. Help us get the word out!

Matthew, chapter 16, verse 24. Now, as we're trying to discern how translators change our view of things in their attempt to make the message clearer, sometimes some things get lost in translation. Matthew 16:24 says, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, whoever wants to be my disciple must do" what? (AUDIENCE – deny) Okay, hold that word in your head. Deny, deny, deny.

“Must deny themselves, take” that's the first thing is you got to deny yourself. Second thing is you got to “take up your cross.” And third thing is you have to “follow Him.” Okay, you have to deny themselves, take up your cross and follow Him.

“Whoever wants to save their” now, what does your Bible say? It probably says life, but in Greek it says psuche. What is psuche in Greek? (AUDIENCE – soul) Soul, okay? “For whoever wants to save their soul will lose it, but whoever loses their soul for me will find it.” Is this making more sense? If we understand the soul as the will, the intellect, the emotions, your personality, you have to deny those things to save it. If you let your soul lead your life, your emotions, your intellect, your reason, your feelings, your desires, your wants, if you let that lead your life, you will actually lose your soul. But if you deny your soul by bringing it under the spirit, you'll save it. Hallelujah! This is the gospel. The saving of not just the spirit, but the soul. You have to deny your soul. So most people are soul-lead or flesh-led, actually; one of those two. But we're talking about the soul today.

Many people are motivated by I want - that's the soul. I think - that's also the soul. Or I feel - that's also the soul. Okay? They're motivated by those things. And so what does deny mean? Deny means saying no. If your application is denied, is that a yes or a no? (AUDIENCE – no) That's a no. So your intellect, your feelings, all this stuff, all that soulish stuff is constantly applying. May I have this, may I have that, may I have this? And the answer is - no.

Here's probably a better way of saying it. I love you, but no. And the reason we say I love you is because your reasoning intellect is a blessing, your emotions are a blessing and your desires are a blessing. They just need to be trained. Amen? So we say I love you, but no. The soul says, I want, and you say I love you, but no. It's God's will, not your will. Amen?

The soul says, I think, you say no. Not what you think, God's word. Amen? God's Word. We don't lean on our own understanding, as Proverbs says. In all our ways we acknowledge Him. Amen? The soul says, I feel like, and we say, that's fine, no. The Holy Spirit's promptings, the Holy Spirit's guidance. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Y'all learning something today?

We bring the soul under the spirit. What is David said? Bless the Lord, oh my (AUDIENCE – soul). So who's talking there? What did you say? (AUDIENCE – the spirit) The spirit. When David says, ‘bless the Lord, oh my soul,’ he's saying, hey, hey. Soul from the spirit he's saying, hey soul, you bless the Lord. Time to worship, time to praise. You stop thinking about that, you stop feeling this way; you stop doing the other thing. Is it okay to speak to our soul? (AUDIENCE – yes)

Repeat after me: hey, soul (AUDIENCE – hey soul), bless the Lord (AUDIENCE – bless the Lord). Let's just say that Psalm together: Bless the Lord (AUDIENCE – bless the Lord) oh my soul (AUDIENCE – oh my soul) and all that is within me (AUDIENCE – and all that is within me) bless His holy name (AUDIENCE – bless His holy name) and forget not His benefits (AUDIENCE – and forget not His benefits). Who forgives all your sins (AUDIENCE – who forgives all your sins) and heals all your diseases (AUDIENCE – and heals all your diseases). Amen! We thank the Lord for that. Where was I? Bring the soul under the spirit.

First Corinthians chapter two. Turn with me. First Corinthians chapter two. First Corinthians chapter two, verse 13 says, so we're going to find that same word “soulish” again. “This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the spirit.” Okay, real quick, what is human wisdom? Is that soulish or spiritual? (AUDIENCE – soulish) It's soulish. Right? “Explaining spiritual realities with spirit taught words.”

Then the next is a really big claim, all right. So in English, in NIV it says ‘the person without the spirit.’ Anybody have a different version? Some of them say a natural man. Everybody here has NIV? Anybody have ESV or King James? What do you have?

(AUDIENCE – ESV) What does it say? (AUDIENCE - the natural person) The natural person. Okay. The word here is the soulish man. Psuchikos. Anthropos. The soulish man.

Now, I think it'd be better, because we don't have the word soulish in English, but it's the adjective of the soul. The soulish man. Okay? So "the soulish man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, and considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through" what? (AUDIENCE – spirit) "The spirit." You see a difference there between a soul and the spirit? It's important.

The soulish person cannot receive spiritual truth. The soulish person cannot receive spiritual truth. The man or woman who is led by the soul cannot receive spiritual truth unless they're led by the spirit. They need to bring the soul under the spirit. And this is a big warning for churches, because soulish stuff can deceive you. I really think that. Who thinks the world has been deceived by soulish life? Especially the arts. The arts are one of the greatest gifts to the church, and to be honest, one of the greatest gifts from the church. Who knows in history, nobody's created better art than the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We're thankful for that.

There's a reason for that. It's a double-edged sword. Music, in particular, is super, super soulish. And the reason it's a gift to the church is because the soul is in the way. And by having wonderful music, you can very easily bring the soul under the spirit by applying the Word of God into the music.

Music is like a soul syringe where you can put anything in a syringe you want, but that syringe will pierce skin, bone and marrow and go straight into the spirit, and the better the music, the sharper the syringe. Amen? Who here knows Shepherd's Grove has a sharp syringe? We praise the Lord for that. The danger in any church is that you can put anything you want in a syringe. So that syringe needs to be full of spiritual truth, the Word of God.

The danger is that much of the music we listen to, we're letting that stuff get injected into us, as well. Music and the arts, which are an incredible gift, which is storytelling, film, painting, a gift from the Lord, but they are soulish, soulish, soulish. And so we want to be careful that we're not led.. it's a medium. We don't want to be led by the medium itself, we want the medium to transform us. Is this making sense to anybody? (AUDIENCE – yes)

Music is like a soul lubricant. It softens the soul. When the soul is in the way between your spirit and God's spirit in the body, it allows the body and the soul to chill out.

I just want to say that many churches, I think, look on the outside like they're thriving, but maybe they're not because they're just really good at soulish stuff. Is that true? I want to say that a sign of spiritual maturity is that you can worship to any style of music, and you can worship without music. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) You can worship to whatever. A sign of spiritual maturity is that the music is an aid, it's a help, you love it, you appreciate it; you don't need it.

Soulish people describe music and worship as the same thing. Spiritually mature people do not. Music can be a part of worship, but who knows we're worshipping the Lord right now. There is no greater act of worship, or very few greater acts of worship than meditating on the Word of God. Amen?

That's not a judgment. I want to be very careful. I just want to say that's why we want to be careful that the soul is coming under the spirit. And how do we know whether something is actually spiritual from God, or whether it's soulish? And the short answer is it's just the fruit. If you have an incredible encounter with God at church in a worship service, but you're not changed, it was a soulish experience. But if you have an incredible encounter with God and you're called to repentance, you find yourself wanting to do good works, you find yourself wanting to be always in God's presence, you find yourself in conflict with the world, you had a spiritual experience. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Who wants a spiritual experience? (AUDIENCE – amen) I do! So we need to get the soul under.

This is a good question that we as disciples need to constantly ask is am I being

spiritual or am I being soulish? Am I being spiritual or am I being soulish? And I think this sermon is going to help a lot of people to discern that question, and to have some red flags go off if something is all soul with no spirit.

Here's a great exercise. How about love? Is romantic love a good thing, yes or no? (AUDIENCE – yes) Yes. Is romantic love soulish or spiritual? (AUDIENCE – soulish) Which one? (AUDIENCE – soulish) It's soulish, right? Okay. Is agape love a good thing? (AUDIENCE – yes) Is agape love soulish or spiritual? (AUDIENCE – spiritual) It's spiritual. They're both good. Amen? Which one's better? (AUDIENCE – agape) Agape.

We're not saying soul is bad, we just don't want to be soul-led. Praise God for soul. Who knows, we have a lot of soulish stuff in this church. Can we praise the Lord for that? Lord, thank you for that. Thank you for these lights, and this beautiful screen, and the beautiful music, and we're all dressed in lovely ways, and the voices and everything. It's all soulish, and it's good, but it's not the main thing. It's the syringe. Amen.

Here's a hard one: is theology soulish or spiritual? Which one, soulish or spiritual? Think about it. Let me give you a clue: think about it. Theology is soulish. Universities are one of the most soulish places in the world. Is theology good or bad? (AUDIENCE – good) It's good, right? We don't want bad doctrine, but theology is soulish.

Revelation - is revelation.. that's a kind of knowledge, too. Is revelation soulish or spiritual? (AUDIENCE – spiritual) It's spiritual. You see? Theology is trying to help the soul understand what was revealed in the spirit. The church has a lot of theology, we need more revelation. Amen? The church has a lot of theology, we need more revelation, Lord. Soul, get out of the way. We want to hear from God. Amen?

Here's another way we can know. Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12 says this: "For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit." Soul and spirit. It divides soul and spirit. What does the dividing? What? (AUDIENCE – the Word of God) The Word of the Lord, which is the Bible. Amen. The Word of God. The Word of God divides soul and spirit.

Who knows we read the Bible, but brother, the Bible reads us. It divides us. It cuts us. Amen? And many of you say the Bible doesn't cut me. You're reading too fast. That's usually the problem. It's a practical issue. That you want to slow, slow down, slow down. One verse very slowly, one at a time. Read the Bible often. Let it read you. Discern the Bible. Let the Bible discern you. You don't change the Bible. The Bible changes you. We don't interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets you. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) Divides soul and spirit. Amen.

What can be really confusing is that the spirit always works through the soul. Did you know that? So right now I'm preaching in the spirit. Who believes I'm hearing from the Holy Spirit as I'm preaching? You better know I am. I am listening to the Holy Spirit. But what you're hearing is coming through the soul. Okay?

We got to be diligent. The scripture says He's a rewarder of those (AUDIENCE – who diligently) now does it say He's a rewarder of all Christians? No! He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

I'm preaching slower and slower and slower every week. My notes are getting slower and slower and shorter and shorter. I'm going to leave you with a homework assignment today to bring back next week and we're going to look at the scripture together.

This was given to me by my old pastor Willie George. Can we put the slide on the screen? This scripture, if you have your cell phones, take your cell phone out and take a picture. If you don't have a cell phone, I praise God for you and we need more people like you. If not, take out a pen and paper and write it down. If you're watching on YouTube, take a screenshot. And hey, you're already taking screenshots of just.. I know I already said it, but if you didn't subscribe the first time, okay, anyway.

Ephesians 1:17-23, 3:14-21. What I want you to do is this is a prayer of Paul for the

church. Who here is in the church? So am I. This prayer is for you. So when you're praying privately, I want you to pray this. Exchange the "you" for "I" or "we." And I'm going to invite many of you to pray this over Shepherd's Grove, as well. We want this to be in our church. It's very theological, theologically rich. Who here will make a commitment to pray this over the church? Not everybody has to do it, but who is willing to do that? Okay, a lot of people. Praise the Lord for that. Thank you.

I just want to show you what I mean. We'll do the first one together. Okay? So let's just bring that up on the screen. This is Ephesians 1. So what we're going to do is we're going to change the "you" to "we" as a church. Okay?

Let's pray this together: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the spirit.. oh, I did it wrong. I messed up, didn't I? Us, my bad. May give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know Him better. We pray that the eyes of our heart may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which He has called us, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age, but also in the one that is to come. (AUDIENCE - amen). And God placed all things under His feet, and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

Is that a good prayer? Praise the Lord for that. Let's pray that over our church, okay. And so you'll just do that same thing in your own time.

Stand with me. Notice how that was 'I pray that the eyes of my heart would be enlightened.' I want to see in the spirit. I want to hear in the spirit. I pray that the eyes of my heart would be enlightened. Let's say that together, Lord. Say it with me: Lord (AUDIENCE – Lord), we pray that the eyes of our heart (AUDIENCE – we pray that the eyes of our heart) would be enlightened (AUDIENCE – would be enlightened). Amen (AUDIENCE – amen).

Lift your hands with me, I'm going to pray over you. Holy Spirit, we pray that you'd continue to help us discern between what is soulish and what is spiritual. We thank you for our soul, Lord. We thank you for art and music. Wow, what a gift. We thank you for film, we thank you for all the many beautiful things you've given us. We pray, Father, though, that we wouldn't be led by the soul, we'd be led by the spirit. We'd be led by your Word. Our life would conform to the scriptures. That's where the blessing is. He who wants to save his soul will lose it, but he who loses his soul for my sake will find it.

Father, we receive from you the leading of the spirit, and we want to hear from you, God, and we thank you. We thank you that you live inside of us. We want it to come out and we ask it now in Jesus name. And all the saints said, amen (AUDIENCE – 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.