

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

This is the day the Lord has made and we will (AUDIENCE – rejoice) rejoice and be glad in it. Thank you so much for being here today. We love being with you.

Don't let this time be wasted as we go into worship. I love to mentally try to unplug. Anything that you have going on in your head, we know you probably have a lot of things going on in your head right now. I like to unplug; unplug, whatever to do list you have. I like to unplug my mom plug. Unplug every plug that you have right now and let it be you before your living God entering in. And there is power as one body. We enter into the presence together. Let's do that this today. Would you join me in prayer? Lord Father, we thank you that you are in this place; that you are with us, Lord. God, we say, we are so hungry for you. We hunger and thirst for you, our living God. We thank you that you are so good to us; that you are the good, good Shepherd and that we lack nothing in you. Hallelujah! We come before you now, Father. I ask for a blessing upon those speaking today that you would give Bobby utterance and your Spirit. Give all the pastors speaking today in the church's utterance in the Spirit that your word may go forth and break chains, that we may have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord. We lay ourselves before you now, in the powerful and holy name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, amen! Amen. Turn to the person next to you and say, God loves you and so do I.

### **WELCOME/YOUTUBE - Bobby**

I also want to welcome all of those who are watching on YouTube, and we realized that a lot of people are watching on YouTube that live nearby and are looking for a church. Come down to Shepherd's Grove. We'd love to meet you. We're in Irvine. Now if you don't know where Irvine is, you're not close enough to come to church, but if you do know where it is, come on down. We'd love to see you. And to all of you who have been watching and supporting us, we don't have a lot of donors, but we're thankful for you, especially those who give a monthly gift to our online ministry. It helps us with all of our cameras and editing. I just want to say thank you so much. And if you feel led to do that and want to support this church, there's a link in the description below. It would mean a lot to our community if you did help us. Thank.

### **DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller**

Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving from the Lord, let's say this together: Thank you for the cross, Lord. I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Amen!

### **MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "The Greatest Hindrance to Hearing God's Voice"**

If you have your Bibles, please open them up to Acts chapter 9. Acts chapter 9. Today I want to just begin by saying I found the only.. there's maybe others.. the only church growth model; a great church growth model in the Bible. Acts chapter 9, verse 31. Now, if you go to a pastor conference, the church growth model you're going to get is funnels, and make sure the parking lot's really big, and gorgeous women's bathroom, and those are all fine; I'm not criticizing that, but you're not likely to see this. Here's the model. Acts chapter 9, verse 31. And before I read this, the piece that I'm about to talk about here is the result of a great enemy of the church being transformed. A gentleman named Saul, who was a fierce Pharisee, traveling around arresting and persecuting Christians, bringing with him soldiers and mobs and gangs, rounding up numbers of Christians, has this incredible encounter with Jesus and becomes a Christian and becomes Paul.

After this happens, this great peace rests over the church because they're not afraid of Paul anymore. Who was the great enemy becomes the great proponent. And so it says in verse 31 of Acts chapter 9, "Then the church throughout Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied." Wow. Now this says increased in numbers. That's a good translation, too. Who wants our church to multiply? I want it to multiply. Here's how you do it: you live in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. There's the model. The fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Last week we talked about Ephesians chapter 1 and chapter 3, and some of you made a commitment to pray that over the church. It's okay if you didn't do it, but how many of you actually did it at least once? Let me see. Okay, so a number of you. Praise the Lord for that. And if you didn't do it, I would encourage you to do it. But those of you who did do it, you will receive a gift for that in the spirit from the Lord. And it's not too late for you if you want to do it to do that. But if you did that, you read the scripture a number of times.

Turn with me to Ephesians chapter 1. And this will be our main text for today. Ephesians chapter 1. So in that we have the prayer for the Ephesians, that we can pray over ourselves by subtracting the word "you" for the word "me" or "us." And if you did that this week, this will sound familiar to you, but look at how rich this language is; so rich nobody knows what they're saying.

"I pray that the eyes of your heart would be enlightened." So that's open the eyes of my heart, right? "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who (AUDIENCE – believe) believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead." Amen.

I want to look at these three treasures that Paul promises those who open the eyes of their heart. If we open the eyes of the heart, if we see in the spirit, if we hear from God, there are three major benefits to that that Paul promises here that are kind of veiled because of the language.

The first is the hope to which He has called you. The hope to which He has called you. Now this can mean heaven, but who else knows it also means that you're called. Who here is called? Let me see. Look, every hand. If you're a believer, every hand should go up. If you are saved, you are called.

Second Timothy 1:9 says, "He saved us and called us to a holy calling." Now a lot of believers know they're saved, but they don't know that they're called. That you are called for ministry. You're called to do ministry. Amen! In fact, Brother Mauldin is the one who pointed this out to me. That what we think of as the five-fold ministry: teachers, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and apostles, thank you, the whole point of that is to, it says 'to equip the saints for ministry.' So we think of ministry as the preachers/teachers and that is ministry, but their ministry is to equip you for ministry. Amen? You are called. You're called. You are called to preach the gospel.

I was in Switzerland not long ago and went to this beautiful church that was full of vibrant people, young people, old people, and bustling. And I've always felt like Europe is sort of ahead of where America's going culturally, and it's been that way a lot, and I asked this pastor in a wonderful country that doesn't have vibrant churches anymore, I asked him, how are there so many people here, thousands of people? And he said, we learned that we have to teach our people how to evangelize. Our people need to know how to evangelize. If they don't share their faith with others, we won't grow and we won't thrive as a church. Amen? I can't get it into you enough that if you're a believer, you're called, and that there's some aspect of the walk of every believer that it's almost like we're supposed to be - I hate using this word - but almost like a little embarrassed, sometimes, by the position we're in in our faith.

Because if the Holy Spirit speaks to you and says, 'ask the server if you can pray for her,' who here knows if you've never done that before, that's a little embarrassing, but it's good for you. If He says, whatever, go share your faith with somebody. In church do this certain thing.

We want to yield and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit and not grieve the Holy Spirit, and sometimes that means that we'll be humbled by the act of obedience. Amen? But that is the cost of being called. If you're saved, you're called.

In fact, on Friday, I talked about the ten virgins and about how five had oil and five did not. This was Jesus words. And how those five with the oil came in to the wedding, but the five without the oil didn't get in. And what is the oil always? What is oil in the Bible, always? (AUDIENCE – Holy Spirit) It's the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the oil. We need the Holy Spirit. And just like a car full of petroleum, petroleum is a type of oil, if a car full of petroleum doesn't run, the petroleum, the oil, goes bad. Is that right? You have about three to six months to use the oil - the petroleum, or else it gums up and messes up your engine. I actually think that's about what you got when you're full of the Holy Spirit to use what God has given you to turn the engine on. You've got to light the fire. You've got to use the oil. You've got to use it. It's use it or lose it. Amen? It's use it or lose it.

You're here today, and you say, I've been praying, I've been seeking God, I'm listening to my worship music, I'm listening to sermons, but when the Spirit urged you to share your faith with someone, you didn't do it. When God called out on you to do some weird thing, to minister to some person, you wasted the oil. You got to use it. Amen? I don't say this to bring you under condemnation, but to encourage you to say there is a solution. If you're full of oil, use the oil. The solution to using oil is lighting the fire. Use it up and then you'll be like the widow of Zarephath. Remember the widow of Zarephath? When Elijah comes to her and she's gathering some sticks to make a little fire, and he says, 'woman, please bring me a cup of water,' which is normal in their culture, 'please bring me a cup of water and some bread. I've come from a long journey.'

And you remember what she says to her embarrassment, actually, in that culture, she said, 'sir, I'm so sorry, but I just have a little flour, a little oil. I'm going to have some bread, and my son and I are going to eat it, and that's going to be our last meal, and then we're going to die. We're going to starve to death.'

And you remember Elijah's response? 'Give me the bread. Give me the flour and oil.' There's a Yiddish word called chutzpah that applies perfectly there, doesn't it? Give me the bread. Now the woman has a choice, doesn't she? To respond in faith to the word of God, or to respond in fear and just eat the bread. And keep in mind, this isn't just her bread, it's really her son's bread, who's a child. So she's got a crying child at home who's hungry that's saying, 'mommy, I'm hungry,' and this prophet says, 'let me eat the last of your bread. Give it to me.'

And to her glory, the widow of Zarephath, who is remembered by Christ Himself, took that oil and that bread, and she gave it to the prophet. And what happened? She never ran out of oil again. She never ran out of oil ever again. What does oil represent? (AUDIENCE – Holy Spirit) Holy Spirit. You have to give it away. The Holy Spirit. What does bread represent? What does it represent? The Word of God. So if you've got the Word of God and you got the Holy Spirit, that is a one/two combo, but you need to give it away. Amen? You're called to give it away.

Who knows some unleavened bread.. what is leavened? Pride, hypocrisy or sin. Some unleavened bread with some oil on top and maybe some salt. What is salt? Preservation in the covenant. Who knows that's a nice little thing to give to the world. Amen? All right. You get it. You're called. I get it, you're called. Use it or lose it. Amen?

And just kind of a final thought, Ephesians calls the helmet part of the armor of God the helmet of salvation, but Thessalonians calls it the helmet of hope. And who here knows that when you're called and you're living out your calling, you're full of hope.

Isn't that right? I mean, being called to do something is a part of our hope. And in Thessalonians is the hope of your salvation, which is right, that it's the salvation that gives us hope. But there's more to it than that. It's the hope of our calling, as well. And I have known that when I know I'm called to do something great for God, it gives me a lot of hope. Amen? Amen. Praise the Lord for that. We need to know we have something to offer a hurting world.

The first thing he says, why do we open our eyes? So that we know what our calling is. We need to hear from God. Not guessing. Not reading tea leaves. We hear from God. He tells us, we do it. Amen? And I'm so grateful for that.

Declare with me: I hear from God (AUDIENCE – I hear from God). My eyes are open (AUDIENCE – my eyes are open). I'm a minister of the gospel (AUDIENCE – I'm a minister of the gospel). I'm called to a hurting world (AUDIENCE – I'm called to a hurting world) in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name).

The second reason he gives in Ephesians.. so the first one: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which you are called. The second is one that you've probably said a lot, but you don't really know what you're saying. That you would know the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. What does that mean? Now on face value, it looks like that you'd have spiritual riches. That's not what its saying. That you would know the riches of His glorious inheritance. Whose riches are they? Whose inheritance is it? It's God's inheritance. It's God's riches. Who's He talking about? He's talking about us. Praise the Lord.

Throughout the whole Old Testament, God's people are constantly called the Lord's inheritance. Isn't that a sweet thing that God sees us as His inheritance? Israel is the inheritance of the Lord. Who here knows the church is the inheritance of the Lord? It's the only treasure He really wants. Why does the Lord tarry? Why has Christ not returned? When Christ returns, there's no more sick kids getting cancer. That goes away immediately. There's no more wars. There's no more pestilence. There's no more famine. There's no more sickness. It goes away. But when the Lord returns, its sheep and goats time. It's judgment day. Some will go up, some will go down. That's it. It's over after that. Why does He tarry? The scripture says because of the precious fruit of the earth. Precious fruit of the earth. We don't understand that we are God's inheritance, and He doesn't want to leave a single bit of grain in the field. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into the field. Isn't that interesting? He didn't say go into the fields, He said pray that He would send people into the field.

The second reason we need to open our eyes is so that we'll understand the power that we are the Lord's inheritance. In short, that we will walk in love; that we'll know that we're loved by God. That we're full of His grace and power. That everything we're doing is not coming from a place of trying to prove something. We're here in obedience to a God who loves us and saved us. Who here is excited about their salvation? I know I am. I know who I am. Amen.

And I'm not interested anymore in getting approval from the world. Thank you, Courtney for a post, this great quote. Let's see if I can remember it: we need to stop winning approval from a world that crucified a perfect man. Is that right? Let's stop living for approval. Amen! Amen. Just look at what this world approves of.

I had a conversation with a gentleman, a good friend of mine, and he didn't mean any harm by it at all. My son has some pretty severe special needs, and one of the challenges of parents with kids with special needs that you think about a lot is what happens when I'm gone and my son, who has all these needs, there's nobody to care for him anymore. And the really haunting thought is what happens when I'm gone and he doesn't understand death, he just thinks I abandoned him. Like, why aren't we going to Disneyland? Why aren't we going to Chick-Fil-A? I remember feeling, first I would say the Lord has freed me from this, by the way. I'm not worried about it anymore.

I believe that God's going to heal my son, and God is healing my son, but I'm just not worried. I have faith. I'm a faith man and I believe God will care for my son more than I can.

But I will also say that as I was explaining this to this guy, who's a great guy, in trying to comfort me, he said, 'you know, he'll' and very gently said 'he'll probably pass before you do.' And in saying that, what he was expressing to me is something that I think a lot of people in the world feel, which is that people, even if they're your children, people if they inconvenience you, it's a mercy if they die. You don't think that's what the world believes? That's what the world believes. That's what the world believes. If it inconveniences you, it's a mercy if they die. No.

And see, this is the world versus what God says. That no matter what you achieve in your life, like you might be watching today, and you feel like for whatever reason, one reason or another, the world does not value you, I want you to know that you are the Lord's inheritance, AND you are called. Praise the Lord for that. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) And you're a saint. If you're Catholic, it might sound strange, but Catholics think of saints, sometimes, as just the big heroes of the faith that we're sort of received this thing that Catholics do. But that's not what the scripture says.

Who here knows that every single person that believes in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is a saint? There's this phrase that we say in English: I'm no saint, I'm no saint. And in all seriousness, don't ever say that ever again. The enemy wants you to say that. You are a saint. You are a saint. You're either a saint or you're not saved. Only saints go to heaven. And what makes you a saint is not by performing three miracles, or having blood come out of your hands.

Here's what makes you a saint: the blood of Jesus Christ. That's it. Believing on the atoning work and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen? In fact, just say that aloud. Let's say this together. Repeat after me: I am a saint (AUDIENCE – I am a saint). I am made righteous (AUDIENCE – I am made righteous). I am a holy child of God (AUDIENCE – I am a holy child of God). The court of heaven declares me not guilty (AUDIENCE – the court of heaven declares me not guilty). Hallelujah! (AUDIENCE – hallelujah!) Isn't that good news? We praise the Lord for that. I am a saint.

That's the second reason we need to have spiritual eyes is that we're walking in this idea that I am a holy saint, not because of my works, but because of what Christ accomplished for me. He who knew no sin became sin that I would be called the righteousness of God. Praise the Lord!

The third great treasure that's offered to us, if we can open the eyes of our heart, and this is why the hard work and diligence of learning to hear from God, and be led by the Holy Spirit is so critical for every believer now more than ever is for supernatural power. This is what He says, this is the third one. His incomparably great power for us who believe. The same power that raised Christ from the dead.

The reason we need to open the eyes of our heart is so we can have supernatural power in our mission. Power comes from obedience. It comes from obedience. God says, go over there and do that thing. Who knows, if you go do that thing, it's going to work. If God says walk on water and you step on the water, it's going to work, if He tells you to do it.

This is so, so, so important that the power comes from obedience. It comes from hearing what God says and doing what God says. And what God says is not just going to be moral stuff. There's going to be times He asks you to pray for the sick. There's going to be times that He asks you to speak a word of knowledge to somebody. And if you can hear from God, you are going to radically transform lives by operating in spiritual power because you hear from heaven. Amen?

Listen to these words: "If you remain in me," John 15 "and my words remain in you, ask anything and it will be done for you." It's either true or it's not. Okay. It's either true or it's not. All right? Who here believes that's true? (AUDIENCE – it's true)

But the key is if you remain in me and my words remain in you, I'll give you guys a guess, there are two words for word, I know we say this a lot, what are they? Logos. Rhema. Logos is the written Word of God. Rhema is the spoken word of God. Okay. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, anybody have a guess at what that word is there for words? It is rhema. Okay. If my rhema remains in you.

Now this is the word to you, right, because Jesus is saying it, you write it down, but if my rhema remains in you, ask anything and it'll be given to you. Supernatural power comes from hearing the voice of God. 100%. This is why the centurion is like, Lord, heal my servant. And Jesus says, okay, I'll come to your house and heal him. He goes you don't need to come to my house. I'm not worthy to have you under my roof, just say the word. I've got soldiers under me. I tell this soldier go over there, he does it. He better do it. And I do this and he does it. I'm under authority, and I have authority over those under me. Just say the word and my servant will be healed. There's no greater faith in all of Israel, Jesus says.

You have authority when you're under authority. This is a huge principle. You have authority when you're under authority. And there are layers to this, too. I don't have time to get into it, but this is the importance, also, of spiritual authority. I know this idea can lead to some spiritual abuse sometimes, but in a healthy environment, it is important that you submit to spiritual authority. Pastors - that I submit to spiritual authority. That wherever you are in your walk, that you have somebody over you spiritually, so that what's under you is under your authority. Amen?

That we are always submitting to the voice of God. And this is true, too, to honor your parents. One of the greatest, most mentioned curses that comes upon people are those that dishonor their parents. You might have wicked parents. You still have to honor them. You don't have to love them, and you don't have to agree with them, but this is such a critical thing.

This is a whole other sermon, but it is important that you understand that to have authority, you got to come under authority. This is what the centurion shows us. He just says to the Lord just say the word, he'll be healed. Permission to be healed, sir. Permission to be healed, sir. Right? And what does Jesus say? Permission granted.

I'm going to go long. Just to warn you. Final idea then, the best way.. so you all are convinced, we've got to open our eyes, right? We got to open our spiritual eyes. One of the best ways to open your spiritual eyes is to walk in the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord. Oh, the forgotten command in the church in America. The fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord leads to a pure life. Who here knows, the fear of the Lord is pure. It is pure. It makes you pure. It keeps you pure. What does Jesus say? Blessed are the pure in heart. They shall (AUDIENCE – see) see God. See the fear of the Lord gives us a pure heart to desire what is pure. Amen? The carnal mind, the scripture says, leads to death. The spiritual mind leads to life and peace.

What is a carnal mind? We always associate it with sexual immorality. That's not what its saying. A carnal mind is a mind that cares more about this world than the world to come. It cares more about my Bank of America account than it does about my heavenly account. It cares more about what the world thinks about me than what God thinks about me. That's the carnal mind, and it leads to death. It's the fear of the Lord that crucifies the carnal mind and brings us to a spiritual mind.

I want to tell you a story about a snake. It's finally come. The story is not that great, but I just feel like because I've been trying to tell it for so long. This is a big deal for us. For all of us. On Fridays, I often go to Rancho Capistrano in San Juan, and I go there to pray, to spend some of the time to pray, and Pastor Mauldin used an expression that I thought was great. It's an Irish expression, he calls it a thin place. A thin place is, there's places you might find in life that feel like when you go there, you just feel closer to heaven. Like it's easier to pray. It's easier to hear from God.

And who knows there's some thick places, too, like Starbucks. Just kidding. But there's some thin places, and there's a place like that at Rancho Capistrano, and it's a special place. I take sort of a hike up a hill. I just found it randomly about 15 years ago, and you just take this hike and it goes to this peninsula in the sky type thing, almost like from The Lion King where they, like, hold the lion up. It kind of looks like that. But just before that there's a pepper tree, a large pepper tree that canopies over the hiking path. And if you don't know what a pepper tree is, it looks a little bit like a weeping willow. It hangs low. The branches kind of touch the ground. And so it created this unique effect, like those bead curtains from the 60's. I had one in college, where you kind of like put your hands through and you go like this. No, I didn't go to college in the 60's. I'm not that old. But it looked like that, like the pepper tree, like that. Because I found this place to be thin, to be like kind of holy, what I would do is I would take my shoes off and leave them under the pepper tree and then walk the rest of the way and just find this special place to pray. About five years ago, somebody had trimmed the grass, probably a city worker, trimmed the grass, and so there was hay all along the walking path, which was quite nice because when you're barefoot, it feels good to kind of walk on hay instead of hot, hard dirt. Until I stepped on a rattlesnake barefoot. That really happened. So I took my shoes off under the pepper tree to go and pray, and as I'm walking, I'm walking on about six inches of hay, and I step on a rattlesnake that's under the hay. And I didn't see it. And I felt it slide out from under my feet and go (SWISH) like this. And I watched it go about ten feet in front of me with tail and everything, and went into the bush. Who knows there's some symbolism there? I take my shoes off because like Moses, like you're on holy ground, and who knows, I never thought Mark 16:18, "you shall handle serpents and they won't harm you" would ever be a scripture for me. I praised the Lord for that and I walked to the end, and I went and I prayed, and I put my shoes on, but that was the last time I did it. And it's been about five years. About a month ago I was at the ranch again and I was praying, and the Holy Spirit drew my eyes to the mountain and said, I want you to go up there and pray. And I was like, oh, I don't know if I'm hearing from God on this one. I don't know. And that's probably just my mind. And so, you know because it persists, if the peace of the Lord is on the mountain and not where you're at, then you know you're in disobedience. So I felt the Lord drawing me up. I started to walk up this hill. It's a little bit of a hike. And I walked up and I started feeling afraid of snakes because as I'm walking, some guy had done the thing again. So I'm walking again on like six inches of hay all the way up, and now it's not so nice because I don't know what's under this hay, and I'm hearing all little noises and things. And then my words, my own words came back to me to haunt me: if you're afraid of it, you're attracting it. Something I've said so many times. And I'm just starting to feel like a snake magnet, and that's making me feel more worried about rattlesnakes. And just when I thought about 'if you're afraid of it, you're attracting it,' I said, I fear the Lord! like that, real loud. I fear the Lord! And can I tell you all the worry of the snakes and everything just went (SWISH) just went away. Just went away. And that's because the fear of the Lord, when you fear the Lord, that's the only thing you can think about. Amen? Real peace and victory comes from the fear of the Lord. Many of us don't know the scripture. Isaiah 33:6 says, "The fear of the Lord is his treasure." Proverbs 19:23 says, "The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied. He will not be visited by any harm." Who knows that is a Bobby Schuller promise. I'm standing on that one. Amen? Anyone who fears the Lord will not be visited by any harm? That's the Word of God. We can stand on that. And the word for fear, by the way, is fear. It's not respect. It's fear. Fear is the word. In Greek it's phobos. Ever heard of phobias? It's the same word. Phobos.

And the reason this is important is because when you fear God, it takes the same place in your brain that fearing other things does, and by doing that, the Holy Spirit doesn't allow anything else to be there. Praise the Lord.

The fear of the Lord is what happens in the real presence of the Lord. Who knows when angels show up in the Bible and people see them, they wouldn't describe it as respect. They're not going, oh, wow, look at all this respect I have for that. No, it's fear. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen) And praise the Lord that angels are big and scary. They're fighting a good fight on your behalf and mine. Amen? Praise the Lord. They're big and tough and scary. Amen? You're not the only one they're scaring. Is that right? We praise the Lord for that.

The fear of the Lord is what happens when you're in the presence of the Lord. It's an incredible awe. In English, the etymology, awesome and awful are the same word etymologically, and that is what the fear of the Lord is. It's awesome and awful. Let those who have ears hear, let them hear.

The fear of the Lord is like a giant, all-consuming wave towering over you. It's like being at the bottom of El Capitan, looking up 7000-ft at straight granite. That's the awe of the Lord. We experienced the awe of the Lord on Friday night, and the presence came here. And that's why it's hard, too, when the presence of the Lord comes in worship, it just kind of like stirring your coffee and doing this kind of thing. And the reason we use the word fear is because the fear of the word - fear of the Lord works like every other fear. You dwell on it. You feel it. You fix your thoughts around it. You attract it. Amen? (AUDIENCE – amen)

If you're afraid of poverty, if you're afraid of sickness, if you're afraid of death, you'll dwell on it and feel it and fix your thoughts around it and attract it. If you fear the Lord, if you really fear the Lord, you'll dwell on Him, you'll feel Him, you'll fix your thoughts on Him; you'll attract Him. In a sense, what you fear is your God. Amen? So we fear the Lord. If you want to open up the eyes of your heart, you need a pure heart, and the way to get a pure heart is to fear the Lord and to walk in that fear. Amen? But not just the fear. Remember? What's the first Bible verse we read today? Not just the fear of the Lord, but the comfort of the Holy Spirit. And those two things, they're peanut butter and jelly. Sorry, those are not Biblical symbols, but you get it. They're peanut butter and jelly. Amen? They go hand in hand. They complement each other so well. And so we walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen?

Stand with me. Let's just honor the Lord now in our own way. I don't totally understand the fear of the Lord, but I hope that we can learn about it better together. Lift your hands with me like this. Come on, nice and high. This is for God, not for me.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, who sits at the right hand of the Father to judge the living and the dead, we fear you and we honor you. We thank you for life. We thank you for the blood, for the cross, and for the resurrection. We look forward to your return. We say, come, Lord. And we thank you, Father, that you're even working now; that you've sent your Holy Spirit to earth to guide us, comfort us, teach us, and sanctify us while we wait for your return.

We thank you that the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in us. And church, just repeat after me: I fear the Lord (AUDIENCE – I fear the Lord). I walk humbly before Him (AUDIENCE – I walk humbly before Him). The eyes of my heart are open (AUDIENCE – the eyes of my heart are open). I hear the Holy Spirit (AUDIENCE – I hear the Holy Spirit). I hear His orders (AUDIENCE – I hear His orders) and I obey (AUDIENCE – and I obey). Even if I'm humbled (AUDIENCE – even if I'm humbled), even if I'm embarrassed (AUDIENCE – even if I'm embarrassed), I commit today, Lord (AUDIENCE – I commit today, Lord), to do what you say (AUDIENCE – to do what you say), in Jesus name (AUDIENCE – in Jesus name), amen (AUDIENCE – amen). And I praise the Lord. Thank you, Father.

**INTRODUCTION TO SONG – Meredith Mauldin**

This next song is one that I wrote in 2020, about the power of His blood. When everything is going crazy, we have to remember the anchor to our soul and the power of who lives inside of us. I think when everything's going crazy, we have to know that we have something greater, someone higher who lives inside of us. His blood flows through our veins. We have life and life forevermore in Him. This song is my best attempt at a hymn. Let's give Him the glory in this because He is worthy.

**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.