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GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made, today. Is that right? Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: Good morning and welcome visitors. Welcome church family. We love having you here. Thank you for being here. No matter what your singing voice sounds like, it is powerful and vital for the unity of worship, so please sing out with us this morning, and again, we're so happy you're here. You are loved.

BS: I told Hannah I want a grown-up version of Cohen's outfit. You look good, Cohen.

All right, let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that your Holy Spirit is here to save. And we know what that word means, that word, sozo: to save, to rescue, to heal, to redeem, to restore. We thank you wherever the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we thank you that the freedom of your life and your goodness is here to set us free. And so we enter into your sanctuary with praise and to your courts with thanksgiving. We are here ready to thank you in advance for the victory. Lord, we love you and we come full of faith, believing, not doubting, and thanking you, God, that your word is true, and it's in Jesus name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – Hannah Schuller

Let's feed our faith this morning with 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Hallelujah.

INTRO TO WORSHIP SEGMENT – Hannah

Okay, we're going to enter into a time of worship. Would you guys all stand with me? And I'm going to say a prayer and if you can even just lift your hands and we're going to pray together as we enter into worship. In the Bible, in the New Testament, when all the believers came together and they prayed in one voice, it said that the whole place was shaken. In the Old Testament, when they all worshiped God, it said in one accord, a smoke, a cloud filled the sanctuary. It was the presence of God. There is power and unity when we are all of one mind worshiping God together. So let's just prepare our hearts right now. Lord, Father, we thank you for your goodness to us. We thank you, Jesus, that you are the way and the truth and the life. And you have told us that because you live, that because you have Zoe life, we also live. We also have Zoe life. Hallelujah. We worship you. I command the spirit of the fear of man to be cast out of this place. We alone care about your opinion, God, your opinion. We love each other, but we care about your opinion, and we worship you wholeheartedly this morning in one accord, with one voice. Be glorified, be magnified in this place. We are here for you, Lord. We are here for you. Thank you for your abundant provision for us. Lord, we worship you and we continue to stand and ask you. We ask for the miracle of pouring rain on LA. LA be covered in rain in the name of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah. We love you, God, and we worship you in your powerful and holy name we pray, amen. Amen.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Before we say this creed together, I just want to remind you that if you have entrusted your life to Jesus Christ, this is 100% always true for you, all the time. And one of the enemy's goals is to take this from you. But as we say, he can never take it away from you. You can only give it up.

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And so it is important that we understand that anything that needed to be accomplished in your life, it's already been done. It's just our job to take it, to receive it. And so this is part of what we're doing. Hold your hands like this. We're going to receive this from the Holy Spirit. Lord, I pray that you bring it to this church.

Let's say it together: 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.

Thanks, you can be seated.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – Grow: Fix Your Eyes

Well, I asked you to come back and you did. Today we're going to talk about part two of grow and what it means to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ. I feel very strongly that the things I'm going to say today are going to have a tremendous impact on anyone who hears it. But the word to hear and obey, Shema, also means to obey or to do. So today we don't want to just hear the word of God, we want to put it into practice. We don't want to just hear a sermon, we want to become the sermon. And to walk by faith means to believe that the word of God is true. So we want that today for our lives personally, is that right?

And one sign that I think this sermon is so important, the Holy Spirit woke me up early this morning. Who knows that pastors already wake up early on Sunday mornings, five o'clock. I got up an hour before that, I felt like from the Lord, and just felt a heaviness from the Spirit, in a good way, a joyful heaviness to pray.

And so I got up and Hannah was still sleeping, and we sleep with the fan; the fan was blowing on me. I didn't care. And I just got on my knees and I prayed in the Spirit and prayed against the enemy's desire to keep you hearing from what I'm going to say to you today, and to be sure, I guarantee today there will be one of two things that might happen to some of you.

Number one, a wall that goes up that says, I don't know, some religious thing like this is not.. I don't think this is right, or something like that. Number two, more likely just a hazy, not tiredness, but a hazy, like checking out. Don't let that happen, okay? And the reason I think those two things are going to happen is because we're talking really about spiritual warfare and how to fight that war, and specifically how to win when the enemy comes against you, and actually how, in a way, easy it is to win that fight and yet so many lose it. Is that okay with you?

So we're going to commit to the next thirty minutes or so, maybe thirty-four and a half, I don't know, to commit, to hear, Shema, to hear and to do, not what I say, but what the Word says. Is that right? Okay.

Principle number one. Just to revisit last week, number one, what it means to grow means to get a new mind. You become what you think about. You become what you think about. You become what you dwell on. Your thoughts are your future. You want things to change? What do you change? (AUDIENCE – your mind) That's right. We can talk in this sermon. The more we talk, the better. Your mind, your thinking, whatever, something like that. The more you change your thinking, the better, if you want a new life. A new person is the result of new thinking. A new person is the result of a new mind. And what you think about, and this is the core, and this is where I diverge from the world. What you think about is a choice. You can choose what to receive or not receive. You can choose on what you're meditating on. You can choose what you're thinking about. That's at least what the scripture says. And to walk by faith means to believe that the Word is true. And I really think this holds the key to being a disciple.

Here's what a disciple means. A disciple means a person who's trained, a person who's disciplined. Nobody likes going to the gym, right? You go out of discipline. Nobody likes reading a text book. You read it out of discipline. So this is what we do. We train. And the beginning is always the hardest in every discipline, whether it's piano or whatever. Is that right? Okay.

So here's the first principle then. Thoughts that you have, in fact, the majority - this is so important - the majority of the thoughts that you have are not from you. The majority of the thoughts that you have are not from your experience. The majority of the thoughts that you have are not from your body.

We'll start with the ones everyone can agree with. Who came out of the womb speaking English? Nobody was born quoting Shakespeare. That thought came to us in the form of a book or a play, right? Or something like that. I'll scoot over. That thought came to us, right?

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And the culture that you have, those thoughts and ideas of how to dress, how to treat someone, what are manners, what's fun, these are ideas that came to you, right? We can agree that so many of who we are and the ideas and the thoughts that we had would be different if we were born in another country or another time. Is that right?

Okay, now, the other thoughts, thoughts of victory and thoughts of loss, thoughts of discouragement and thoughts of faith, those also come to us from the Lord or from the enemy, Satan. The enemy talks to you all the time and to me. Is that right? So many of the thoughts, and hear me, especially the ones you're embarrassed about or worried about. It's weird how we can be worried about worrying. These thoughts, those thoughts that come to you are not from you, okay? That's principle number one. They're not from you. Guarantee everybody in here, if we put on the screen all of the thoughts we ever had, we would look like Satan. Okay?

So let's look at the story of Jesus tempted in the wilderness. Jesus is tempted in the wilderness and He's fasted for 40 days. That's a long time. Now, just a word on that about fasting, when you are fasting for a long time, the most I've ever done is five, and that's a lot, but 40 is a lot and it is possible, but when you fast, you have crucified the flesh so much that your spiritual ears and eyes become clearer, so it makes it easier to hear from God. This is one of the main reasons why, for spiritual reasons, we fast. And it's not that you can hear, like, better, it's that the noise has gone down.

Back in the day, they used to have this crazy invention called a radio. You would turn a radio on and it would catch a signal, but you turn a dial. You remember this? A dial turns and like the closer you get, (MAKES RADIO SOUNDS) you'd have a mix of noise and signal. And when you got the dial just perfectly, if you had a good signal, then you're going to get the voice or whatever it is you're trying to catch, but you have to hear the signal through the noise.

When you fast, what happens is all of the noise goes down and it's just signal. It's kind of like you know how they say, like, blind people can hear better, or deaf people can see clearer? It's not because they actually hear better, but the other signals and the bandwidth that requires to, whatever, have those other sensors goes down. This is what's happening.

So when you're fasting, you don't just hear God better, you hear everything spiritually better. You also hear Satan better. But the difference is, it's hard for Satan to fool you with his voice because there's no other noise with which to confuse it. Does that make sense? Okay.

So Jesus is in the wilderness. Anybody getting blurred yet? Anybody getting distracted? Don't let it happen. Okay? Jesus is in the wilderness, and He can hear Satan better, too. And we can, too. And it's obvious. You learn that anything like worry, fear, dark, dreadful images, temptation, these are all so obviously Satan, especially rival feelings. Rival. Like if you're like, I just can't put a finger on it, but there's something about this person. Who knows, if you put a finger on anything, you'll be able to put a finger on it eventually, right? This is the enemy. It's the enemy trying to harvest. The two biggest words that describe Satan are accuser and adversary. So when we feel those feelings, especially against another believer, that is almost for sure coming from the enemy.

So Jesus can hear this. This is a real question: how did Jesus hear Satan's voice? Do you know? It doesn't really say, but I think most of us would guess and assume that it came as a thought. Like, if I get to be in a fly on the wall and Satan's talking to Jesus in the wilderness, I'm not going to hear Satan. Is that right? Jesus is hearing it as a thought. And this is so important.

Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't take those thoughts and ruminate on them? Like, aren't you glad that He didn't go, oh, man, why did I want to jump off the temple? What's wrong with me? Aren't you glad that Jesus didn't leave that temptation that came from Satan and go, God, this came from me. Why am I trying to prove myself? Why did I want to jump? Am I suicidal? Aren't you glad? Are you? (AUDIENCE – yes)

Aren't you glad that when Satan tempted Jesus to worship and said, worship me and I'll give you my kingdom, that Jesus didn't leave that experience and go, gosh, why did I want to worship Satan? I'm the Son of God. I'm Jesus. Oh, no, why did I want to worship Satan? No, no, not even for a minute. Because He had knowledge. Unlike us, He knew that voice, that thought, that thought, that thought, that thought, that thought was not from Him. Wasn't from His body, wasn't from His experience, it wasn't even from the media He was consuming. It wasn't from any of that. It just came straight from who? (AUDIENCE – Satan)

And here's what He did, and I love how Brother Keith says this. He just slapped it down. Just no, slap it down. Somebody say, slap it down. (AUDIENCE - slap it down) Now, we're going to be saying this a lot in this service. These thoughts come to you, you can slap, slap it down like a bad dog. Don't slap dogs, just slap it, slap it down. Slap it down. Okay? Somebody say slap it down.

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(AUDIENCE - slap it down) Okay, the way Jesus slapped it down is the best way to slap down any evil, wicked, negative, worrisome, anxious, ungodly thought and that is with three words. You remember the three words that Jesus fought with? Everybody, say it together. The first one is: "it." The second one: "is." Third one: "written." It is written. It is written.

In the Bible when it talks about the armor of God, the weapons and the armor that we wear, of all the pieces, there's only one piece that's offensive. What is it? Do you remember? The sword of the spirit. And then it just tells us plainly, what is the sword of the spirit? What is it? What is it, Nate? It's the word of God. The word of God. If we can't say "it is written;" if we don't know the word, you are going into battle without a sword. Good luck. Good luck. Is that right?

Now, I don't want you to come under judgment or feel guilty or feel overwhelmed or anything like that, I'm just telling you this thing is magic. It's amazing what it can accomplish for you in the spirit if you know it. You don't even need to know the whole thing. Get like five "it is written's" under your belt. Just putting five in the chamber, ready to go. Is that right?

Somebody here is like, oh, I don't know. The Bible's kind of boring. Just read a chapter a day. Just read a chapter a day. Can you do that? Watch, it'll change your life. Start in Matthew. I think starting in the New Testament is better. Just start in Matthew or Genesis. Just do a chapter a day.

Okay. If we don't have the Word in our heart, if we don't understand it at some level, we're going into the battle of the mind unarmed. Okay, I'll just review that first point. This is key. Again, one more time so you don't lose it: thoughts do not come from us. They don't come from your body. They don't come from your experience. They come to you. They come to you. They may use some trauma you had, they may use some negative experience you had, but it's not coming from that. It's coming from spiritual forces in the heavens, in the realms that want you to think a certain thought so that you become a different kind of person, and not in a good way. Is that right? So we're going to do what?

(AUDIENCE - slap that down) Slap that down! Slap it down!

The Bible says that God calls those things that be not as though they were, and by doing that they become. He just says "universe" and then a universe becomes. Is that right? And in this context he's talking to Sarah becoming pregnant. Ninety-year-old woman - pregnant, and she's pregnant. Guess what? In a similar way, the enemy calls things that be not as though they were. He does it, too. He goes sick, death, anger, these things. And it's all smoke and mirrors, unless we take the thought. If we take the thought and tend to it, it will grow into the thing that he said, but it's all smoke and mirrors. He says you're going to lose everything. You're not going to lose everything. You're just not. You're not saved. You are saved.

Here's one that every parent has heard: your kids are going to die. I guarantee almost every parent in this room has had some gnarly image of their kids dying. Who knows that's not from you? That is not from you. That is the enemy. That is the enemy. Do we agree?

You're going to get sick. You're going to get sick again. We just have to identify the enemy, and as long as we slap those thoughts down in a disciplined way, they have no power anywhere. Is that right? No power anywhere, especially here. This is a sacred, special place.

Confess with me. The word of God is true (AUDIENCE – the word of God is true). Satan's word is smoke and mirrors (AUDIENCE – Satan's word is smoke and mirrors). It has no power here (AUDIENCE – it has no power here). Amen.

Okay, let's answer number two. So your thoughts. Number two. Where is Satan? This is really important. Now if you go around and you ask most people 'where is Satan right now,' they are going to picture a really ugly, gnarly, horrible looking thing where? In (AUDIENCE – hell) hell. Satan is not in hell. I wish he was. He's going to be there soon. But he's not there yet. And he is not ugly. If you could see Satan, you'd see one of the most beautiful, gorgeous things you have ever seen in your life. If you could hear the voice in the spirit, it's a beautiful voice, but it's rotten to the core. See, this is number two. We need to know the enemy. Not ugly thing in hell, beautiful thing in the air. Beautiful thing in the air who speaks. Beautiful thing in the air who speaks to you.

So we understand as believers, when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them dominion over the earth to Avade and Shamar, to care for, to guard, to protect and to practice dominion over God's creation. Adam and Eve then yielded that dominion to Satan in the garden. Here's another thing. How did Satan take dominion? He did it with a thought; by getting a thought in their head. Here was the thought: did God really say? Did God really say? Is that thought in the church today? Is it? It is in the one in America for sure. It's here. What do you do? (AUDIENCE – you slap it down) You slap it down. That's good.

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So Adam and Eve gave dominion to Satan. And in some respects, this is interesting, when Satan receives dominion from Adam and Eve, he's given a punishment. You remember what the punishment is? A promise. The lion of Judah is coming for you. You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head. And so the lion of Judah is Jesus Christ, right? Christ came and defeated, but now we live in a world at war between Christ and the enemy.

If you have your Bibles, look with me at Ephesians chapter 2. I'm sorry I didn't prepare this on the screen. I just added this this morning because I think this is important to see. Ephesians chapter 2, verse 2, "in which you used to live, you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air." The ruler of the kingdom of the air. Where is Satan? We're talking about Satan here. Where is that? (AUDIENCE – in the air) In the air. Okay?

Flip over Ephesians chapter six. We were just talking about the armor of God, but before that, he sets it up by saying "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against rulers, against all authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms." Evil in heavenly realms. It's the spiritual space around us. Are you fading yet? Say no to the enemy. Focus. We're going to do this.

Satan is not in hell. He's around us. He's hanging out. He's not here. He hates it here. Don't worry, he's not here. But he's around us at work, and you'll actually find that there are some places that are darker, and other places that are just super peaceful and anointed. That's real.

If you have your Bibles, turn to me as 2nd Corinthians verse 4. Not only is he around us, he's the God of this world. This is what Christians also don't understand. Second Corinthians chapter four, verse four. Okay, in their case, the what? Who's this talking about? In their case, the God of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is in the image of God. You want to know why you have unsaved people that you love? It's Satanic. They're being blinded by the enemy. No amount of harping them, of ridiculing them will help. They need a spiritual breakthrough.

But look at what Satan is called. In their case, the what? Say it: god of (AUDIENCE – this world) god of this world. Of this world. Jesus calls him that, too. Turn with me to John chapter 14. John chapter 14, verse 30. Okay. This is in His departure sermon, but He says, "I will not say much more to you for the" what? "The prince of this world." So prince here is like saying like a king. It's like one of the highest offices you can have. Right? The prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me.

Flip with me to.. just go over one more page to John chapter 16. He says it again. He's talking about the Holy Spirit, verse 7. So John 16, verse 7. "But very truly, I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away." A lot of Christians today, they're like, if I could have just been with Jesus and seen what He saw and walked on water with Him, how awesome that would have been. He disagrees with you. He thinks it's better that He left. Why? "Unless I go away, the advocate," that's the Holy Spirit, "will not come to you. But if I go," what? "I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment. About sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; about judgment because" what? Say it one more time, "The prince of this world." Okay?

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do bad things happen to good people? Because it happened here. Is that right? Because Satan's getting his way. It's just the most simple answer in the world. Satan got his way. And we are at war. We are at war right now, a spiritual war between what God says is true and what Satan says is true. They both come as thoughts, and the way they're enacted is by faith, by believing them.

When we believe the word of the Lord, we gain territory against the kingdom of darkness. When we doubt, it recedes. When we believe the voice of the enemy, he gains territory in our lives. Right? And when we slap it down, it vanishes. Is that right?

Okay, I'm going to move again. Okay, that's good. Are we all right? Going to go a little longer. So how do we win? How do we win this fight? We win by being transformed. We win by getting a new mind. A new mind. A new mind. New thinking. New thinking. New thoughts. A new mind.

I'm going to go through a bunch of scriptures quickly because I want to be faithful to the constraints I've put on myself. But part of that, if you can't follow quickly in your Bible, I'll encourage you to take out your phone and take pictures of the screen, and that way you can review these scriptures later on your own time. Or if you're watching on YouTube, you can take a screenshot as we go through. And if you're watching on YouTube, you're already taking a screenshot, just hit that red subscribe button. Thank you.

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All right, Romans 12:2. Turn with me to Romans 12:2. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world." Notice how thinking's a pattern, "but be transformed." How? "By the renewing of your mind."

Okay, turn with me to Romans chapter 8, verse 6. Just go over to the left couple pages. Okay? "For to be carnally minded is." Now, again, that's carnally what? (AUDIENCE – minded) Minded. "But to be spiritually minded is (AUDIENCE – life) life and peace." Who wants some life and peace? Me, too. There's the ticket. There it is. A new mind. Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Your thoughts are you. You become what you think about.

In the Old Testament, there's a Bible verse that says, "You shall love the Lord." It is in Hebrew, "you shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul," and the Hebrew word for the throne is "in all your me'od." Which is hilarious, because in Hebrew, the word me'od means "very." And it sounds bad in Hebrew, too. Literally, you shall love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your very. And so because of this, rabbis and Jewish thinkers have been like, what does that even mean? But you can almost hear little kids saying it. Can't you? 'I just love the Lord with all my heart and all my soul and all my very.' Right? It's not grammatically right, but you get it. And so oftentimes, it's translated as strength or might, but it doesn't say that.

And so Jesus, when somebody asks Him, what's the greatest law, He says, love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and then He translates it for us, and all your mind. Where is your strength?

Say to a lot of Christians, do you love the Lord with your heart? Yes, I love the Lord with my heart. Do you love the Lord, with all your soul? Yes, I love with all my soul. Are you loving the Lord with your mind? Well, I can't help it. Can you help it? (AUDIENCE – yes) Can you do this? (AUDIENCE – yes) Can you slap it down? (AUDIENCE – yes) Can you choose what to think about? (AUDIENCE – yes) Can you meditate on the word day and night (AUDIENCE – yes) so that you'll be prosperous and successful wherever you go? That's what it says. So you'll have victory everywhere you go. You cannot be lazy and walk in victory. You cannot be a Christian and walk in victory. I'm sorry, guys. I'm sorry. You just can't. Okay.

The world disagrees with me, and that's okay. The world is reaping the fruit of their philosophies. Is that right? And I have a philosophy, and it has a fruit, and I'm reaping those fruits, thank you, Lord. Thank you that your word is true.

Okay, I think the last Bible verse, turn with me to 2nd Corinthians, chapter 10. This is, ironically, the scripture I was supposed to teach on today, but I'll finish with it. The weapons we fight with. So, 2nd Corinthians chapter 10 verse 4, "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." What's a stronghold? Castle? One of the young guys in my small group said it's like a fortress that you can build to.. think about this for a second: the demonic strongholds in our life. Hear me. The demonic strongholds in our life were built there, we thought, to protect us. Your anger, your wrath, your bitterness, your rivalry, your restlessness, your worry. How many people are worried because they think it's protecting them? How many people are worried because they think it's what responsible people do? And so what they've done is with every thought, they've laid a brick and they've created around them a stronghold, a stronghold, a fortress.

I've said this before: the altars that we create with demonic forces, they do nourish us. They do give us something. But, brother, you've given them something back and it's not a good deal. Is that right? And so he says that we tear down these strongholds. We demolish arguments. So these are spiritual arguments against the word of God. And every pretension. A pretension is something pretending, right? Fake. That sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought. Somebody say take captive. (AUDIENCE – take captive) We take captive every thought and we make it obedient to Christ. Can you do that? Can you take captive every thought? Can you? Church, please. (AUDIENCE – yes) Yes, yes, yes, you can take captive every thought, worry, doubt, jealousy, rivalry, comparison, lust, discouragement, un-forgiveness, anger, death. You say, no, you're under arrest. That's what it means, take captive. You're under arrest. Right?

Again, Pastor Moore told this great story. He had a guy in his church who's been going for a long time and he understood this principle. He went to the Empire State Building and way up high, and he was looking down, and he had this thought come to him: you should jump. And immediately he went, you jump. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) That's it! I'm telling you. That is so locked in accurate. You jump. And just went on with his day. None of this, like, why did I want to jump? Oh, I got to talk to somebody about that. I don't know why I that thought came to me. That's ruminating. He's just feeding that. Feeding that slug, that imp. No, you jump, you worry, you die.

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Not me. That's not me. That's not my life. I know what the Bible says. You jump. Is that right? (AUDIENCE – yes) And this is what we're talking about. Where your thoughts go, your life goes, and you can choose. You can have any life you want if you focus on what kind of thoughts you take. You can have any life you want. Where your thoughts go, your life goes.

When Les Brown was here and he preached, he said this great line: where your focus goes, your energy flows. Is that right? Where your focus goes, your energy flows.

And then finally, last, last thought. In the Bible there's a story of the Israelites in the wilderness, and they come under attack from venomous snakes. And there's a lot of people, probably about two million, so a huge, massive amount of people and they're getting bit and they're dying. And God says to Moses, raise up a bronze snake on a pole, and anyone who looks at it, if they're bit, anyone who looks at it will be healed. Now, that word "to look" in Hebrew means to like deeply gaze and focus. To not look at anything else but to be like locked in nothing but the bronze snake.

So imagine those in real life. First of all, it's a snake. If I just had one snake and I was like, whoop and, like, threw it. Right? If I took one snake, if I was like, surprise and threw a couple snakes into the congregation, what would happen? Yes, kind of shifting in the seats, right? So there's snakes everywhere, like Indiana Jones style. Your friend Jeff, who you've known for five years, is right there next to you, dead. His eyes are rolled back, there's foam all over his nose and mouth; he's dead from a snake. You've just been bitten. Everybody's panicking. You have all the symptoms. You're starting to feel shaky, queasy, and your heart rate's going up. And what do you do? You're supposed to look and gaze. Somebody say easier said than done (AUDIENCE – easier said than done). Is that right? And you look at the snake and gaze at it and fix on it. You don't look at Jeff, you don't look at the snake on the ground. You don't look at the bite in the blood. You don't look at the symptoms. You don't look at the panic. Where do you look? The bronze snake. Jesus tells us in John, chapter three, he's the snake; that He is sin crucified, that He will be raised up and that in the same way we gaze at Christ crucified when we're bit. If you're sick, don't look at the symptoms and the negative reports and the feelings. Where do you look? To Christ crucified. He paid the price.

Whatever it is you're facing. And we're all facing something all the time. We can choose where our thoughts are going to go. We can choose what we're going to look at. We must. If you look at Jeff, if you look at the snake, if you look at the bite, you'll die. Is that right? You can choose what to think of. You have to take captive every thought, take captive every thought. Slap those thoughts down and receive the good thoughts that are coming from the Father. You receive just one of the hundreds of thoughts He's given to you, your whole life is going to change for the better. Isn't that right? You just slap down the other stuff. I see the cross. I see Christ crucified. That's where my victory is. I believe the cross. I believe the cross. I repent of my doubt and I believe the cross. Is that right?

All right, somebody confess with me. This is it. I walk by faith (AUDIENCE – I walk by faith), not by sight (AUDIENCE – not by sight). I look to Jesus (AUDIENCE – I look to Jesus) and I believe the Word (AUDIENCE – and I believe the Word). All right, you said it. Heaven heard. Do we believe it? Stand with me. Lift your hands with me. Holy Spirit, we thank you that you're here now to deliver us. Deliver us from captivity, deliver us from bondage and sickness. Deliver us from any kind of oppression from the enemy. We choose today to hear the word of God and put it into practice. We hear what you're saying. We are going to take captive every thought to the obedience of Christ.

We slap down every worry, every fear, every thought of lack, all anxious thoughts, all negative thoughts. The enemy has no audience with us ever again. We look forward to doing what the scripture says to prove what you can do in a person's life by believing in you. We believe. We believe in you, Lord, and most importantly we believe what you say. We walk by faith and not by sight, and we thank you in advance for the victory, and all God's people said, (AUDIENCE – amen) amen. Amen. Thank you Lord.

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.