

Hour of Power Deutschland
Steinerne Furt 78
86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96
Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: info@hoursofpower.de
www.hoursofpower.de

Baden-Württembergische Bank
BLZ: 600 501 01
Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestr. 8
8594 Güttingen
Tel.: 071 690 07 81
info@hoursofpower-schweiz.ch
www.hoursofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern
Konto: 61-18359-6
IBAN:
CH1609000000610183596

Hour of Power vom 02.10.2022

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – BS/HS

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Hello.

HS: Welcome visitors and church family. You know it is so meaningful to me that we are God's choice. People are His will. He thought us up. He loves us. Thank you so much for being here, and we love you.

BS: Today we're talking about how God's going to do a new thing in your life. And let's just begin to build our faith and stir up our faith this morning and believe for that. Father, we ask in Jesus' name that we would receive the word of God in our hearts this morning from Isaiah. That we would trust and believe that you're doing a new thing, that you're springing up water in the wilderness, Lord, that in tough times, that we know, God that you will come and nourish us and care for us when we need you most. Lord, we lack nothing, and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 43:18-21 - Hannah

In preparation for the message, Isaiah 43:18-21.

Forget the former things. Do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. To give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. Yes, Lord, amen.

INTRO TO SONG – REBECCA ST. JAMES

It's such a joy to be here with my mom, my dad, to be in ministry with her. I'm very proud of the testimony that God gave us as a family through hard times. The song I'm about to sing for you, I pray is a blessing to you this morning. It talks about the battle being the Lord's. He goes before us. We don't have to fear. You don't have to live under that shadow of fear, we can live in confidence because of Jesus in our life. So let the scripture, let the words of the song just cover you this morning. This is Battle is the Lord's.

INTERVIEW – HELEN SMALLBONE (HS)

Helen Smallbone is a mother of seven, an author, and a podcast host for the faith-focused site, AccessMore. She also co-founded MUM Life, an online community that stands for Mothers Uplifting Mothers. In addition, she raised two Grammy-winning Christian music artists, for KING AND COUNTRY and Rebecca St. James. Her new book, Behind the Lights: The Extraordinary Adventure of a Mum and Her Family, tells the story of faith, family, and trusting God in the seasons and challenges of life.

BS: Helen, hi!

HS: Thanks for having me.

BS: Such a privilege to meet you and even visit with you this morning. I'm excited about this book. I'm looking forward to reading it, but first, tell us a little bit about your background, your life.

HS: We grew up in a pretty normal family back in Australia. I hope you can still tell from the accent that there are Australian roots there. Until my husband turned about 40, and when he turned 40, we were actually in Christian music in Australia, but he lost about a quarter a million dollars on a tour, and we knew that our life was going to be changed.

God is Doing a New Thing

God opened opportunity in 1991 for us to come to America, and so we packed up; we sold all our belongings, sold our home, trying to pay debt, and then when we packed ourselves up, we were a family of six kids, I was pregnant with my seventh baby, and we came over here with 16 suitcases. Immigration didn't really love us in Hawaii because they were like there's something funny about this family.

BS: Was Hawaii the first state you went to?

HS: Yes!

BS: That's not so bad.

HS: We only had a day or so there, but that's where we entered America, and they took David aside to further conversations, and so we were locked in this.. or put in this little side room and I remember Rebecca at 14 was feeling the tension and she started crying, and I'm like Rebecca, they're watching us. Just stop the tears and let's all pretend we're coming on a lovely holiday here for six months.

BS: I mean he's Australian, you can understand why they pull him aside.

HS: Ah, yes.

BS: Anyway, but well.. I lost my place.

HS: I took you down a different way.

BS: I was thinking of you guys being in immigration in Hawaii. Seriously, though, when I think about you being a young mother with six children, you had a pretty successful business. I mean to lose a half a million dollars meant you had a half million dollars..

HS: It was actually a quarter of a million, but.. well, we didn't really.. I mean left us in debt, but we left broke, in failure.

BS: That's what I'm saying. I mean you clearly built a business, you had a pretty successful professional life, and you're leaving your home, you've got six kids, a seventh on the way. I mean as a believer, that must have felt like.. were you asking questions like God, are we in trouble for something? Did I make a mistake? Are you punishing us?

HS: I think sometimes when God closes doors, you actually just have to look for His hand and what doors He is going to open. We got together as a family and we prayed, particularly once we got here, because we're on the other side of the world from family and friends, so there's no support systems. We had a rental home in Nashville, we had no furniture, we had no car, so when you're pushed into those sorts of extreme circumstances, you end up finding where the core foundation is, and our core foundation as a family was our faith. We sat around with kids, and we would pray. We would pray for simple things, we would pray for meals, we would pray for food, we would pray for provision, and we saw God work miracles.

BS: Would you say, that when you felt like you lost everything, obviously you felt like your life maybe was falling apart. You're worried, I'm sure you're concerned, that's a big part of why you're praying, but looking back on that, say that was one of the best things that happened to your family? For sure.

HS: For sure. I mean you're talking today about putting the past behind and new beginning. I think we recognized that this was a new beginning, this was a new start. And so, we were really relying on that foundation, and looking for God's openings, looking for where God was leading us. After a couple of years after we were here, David had gone around to all the record companies and actually had Rebecca signed as Rebecca St. James, and she was signed as a 16-year-old. And then we started touring together as a family and supporting her and that's.. we needed to have.. we still hadn't that much money, but so David saw this potential of these five siblings.. five boys who come after Rebecca and then I had a little girl at the end, so we have bookend girls and five boys in the middle. But he saw those boys as crew like this is free labor. And so, they actually became her crew, set up the lights, set up the sound, set up the staging, and there began our life, not as a circus family or a farmer's family, but as a concert family.

BS: Yeah, and King and Country and then of course Rebecca St. James, both won Grammy's and have very successful musical careers. I mean that has a lot to do with your story, too, right? As a mom experiencing these huge arena concerts, and traveling, and touring. I mean that's probably a big part of.. is there some part of that that you learned? Were you concerned at all as a believer with the aspects of fame and things like that, as well as a mom?

HS: I think the biggest aspect because I'd been around music since I married David at 20, I saw the deception of the stage. My biggest concern was actually that they keep their head together. I look at ministries and some people finish strong, and some people don't. And I think if you start to believe your own publicity, if you start to take your focus off Jesus, it says fix our eyes on Him, who's the author and finisher of our faith.

God is Doing a New Thing

I think my encouragement, and that's my role, I think, in lots of ways with even the boys now in For King and Country, keep your eyes on Jesus. Once we take our eyes off Him, and we start looking at ourselves and thinking oh, aren't we great, we've done this, we're in big trouble.

BS: That's a good word, and a good reminder to a lot of people. For those who, I feel like, what if there is a mom that's watching right now who's going through something that you went through in '91, or I forget which year it was, or there's somebody that's watching right now, and they feel like they've lost everything. What encouragement would you give them, practical wisdom for facing a season like that in their life?

HS: We all face seasons of good and plenty, and seasons of loss. And if you're facing a season of loss right now, lean into Jesus. He is real. He is there. All He's wanting from us is to trust Him and to trust Him more. Sometimes it means getting out of your comfort zones, some means going somewhere that you might not have thought you would ever go. But in prayer following Him, looking for His hand, looking for where He's leading us, He is faithful, and He is good.

BS: Amen. What a great word. The book is called Behind the Lights. Helen Smallbone, thank you so much. We're looking forward to reading this work. Your daughter, Rebecca St. James is actually here with us today. Your husband is also here as well, filming on his phone! Hi there, nice to see you. And we are so grateful to have you here telling us your story and I'm looking forward to reading this book.

HS: Bobby, thanks so much for having us.

BS: Thanks so much, Helen. God bless you.

INTRO TO SONG – REBECCA ST. JAMES

I recently released new music and the song that I want to sing for you next is a song that I actually wrote and recorded with my brothers in For King and Country. And it's really a song about revival, and a great revivalist said if you want to see revival, go into your room, close the door, draw a circle on the ground, and step into that circle and say Lord, let revival begin in this circle. Let it start with me. The song says Lord, let your kingdom come, let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let revival start with us. There's an awakening that I believe is happening and beginning here in the U.S. and being longed for around the world. And it can start with us. And so, let's sing the song. It's called Kingdom Come. I pray it's a blessing to you.

WELCOME/COME VISIT – Bobby Schuller

Thank you, Rebecca St. James for leading us in worship. We appreciate you so much and I want to encourage you to get her new album Kingdom Come.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

No matter who are, we're going to ask that you stand with us. We're going to say this creed together. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. Let's say this 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. Its 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 "God is Doing a New Thing"

God is doing a new thing. He's doing a new thing in your life; He's doing a new thing in my life. And though it may not feel that way, when we pray and we think upon God, and we think upon who He is in our lives, if He's doing a new thing but it feels painful or weird or feels like you're losing everything, I want you to trust in this moment that the thing that God's doing in your life is good. I so appreciate the interview I just had with Helen because in a moment when she thought she lost everything, God was preparing her for a season of real victory and abundance. Maybe God's doing that in your life right now. And my hope is that if you catch something today, you catch this: that when God does a new thing in your life, even though in the natural it may seem in the short term like something bad is happening, I want you to believe and get faith in your heart that the new thing God's doing in your life is a great thing. It's not just good, it's like it's amazing. We're going to believe for that today. God is doing a new thing and its good. The truth is, human beings, in general, don't like new things most of the time, especially when its things we're used to in the sort of habits of our lives.

God is Doing a New Thing

It's been said by Dostoyevsky, and if you want to put somebody to sleep, just say Dostoyevsky, if you can even say it, anyway. Dostoyevsky said, "a human being is someone who can get used to anything." And I have witnessed that that is absolutely true. It goes both ways. There's actually studies on this that when somebody, for example, has some crazy ex machina experience, or wins the lottery; wins millions of dollars, for six months to a year, they're thrilled. Their life is amazing. They can't believe it. But after about six months to a year, they sort of just get used to it. This is also true, very often, when bad things happen to people. Not all the time; of course, death and things have a longer, but in general, when you lose your job or something like that, but when a bad thing happens in your life, very often you sort of get used to it. And even too often, when there is something chronically bad in our lives, we get used to it. And sometimes we don't want to leave those bad things in our lives, because if we leave them, what if we get something worse. You see this exact thing in the life of many people who are prisoners that are on parole. Very often, someone who's been in prison for say 20/25 years is released, you find that they have a very, very tough time adjusting to new jobs and paying the bills and asking a gal out for a meal or something. They just don't jive well, and even though prison is horrible, even though it's dangerous, it's what they're used to. And this new thing in their life, freedom, even though its good, for some of them, they'll go and commit a petty crime so they can go back to prison. And that's kind of a weird thing, in my mind. Isn't that strange? Why would they do that? They would do that because its three-square meals and they knew the guy next to them, and even though it was rough, it was the thing that they were used to waking up to in their lives. Most of us in this room are not former prisoners or convicts, but we do the same thing in our lives sometimes. We get used to that old thing that's bad for us, but at the same time, feels like safe. And oftentimes we want to run back to that old relationship, job, safe place, that even though it's bad for us, hey, its three-square meals. I want you to know God is doing a new thing in your life, and that new thing is going to be great. Let's prepare our hearts to receive the new great thing that God has in store for us. It's not that old thing that was safe. It's something new, it might challenge you, might be an adventure, but it's going to be wonderful. God's going to bring springs and rivers to the deserts of your life. Let's believe that today. That brings us to the passage today from Isaiah chapter 43, verse 18. God says to His people, He says this to you. Okay? Hear this is as like He's saying it to you. Hear it as a loving father speaking to his child. "Forget the former things. Don't dwell on the past." Everybody say "dwell." (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – dwell) It's obvious that we don't want to like pretend like the past didn't happen, pretend that nothing bad ever happened. That's not good, that's shoving it down, right? But there's a difference between that and dwelling. When you're always thinking about the thing you lost, and the way it cripples your life, it makes you a slave to emotions, God's saying stop dwelling on those old things, and what? "See, I am doing a new thing. Now" right now, everybody say "now" (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – now) "now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?" He's saying don't you see it? Don't you see that in the desert of your life there's a spring of water coming up. God's trying to stir our hope up in this scripture. He says, "I'm making a new way in the wilderness." Wilderness is another word for desert. "And streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls because I'm providing water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland to give drink to my people, my chosen; the people I formed for myself, that they may proclaim my praise." This passage from Isaiah paints the picture of your life when you feel like maybe on the outside you look good, but on the inside, you feel like a desert. Maybe you've got a good job, but it's not meaningful. Maybe you've got an okay marriage, but it's not the marriage you dreamed of. Maybe your kids are doing okay, but they're not doing great. Maybe you kind of have a walk with God, your label is a Christian, but you don't really feel God. That's not the kind of life that God has for you. God has a life for you that in that desert, and all of us go through it, that there's like this spring of water that's about to come. Can we get excited and hopeful that God's about to bring springs of life into your life? Let's believe that. It reminds me of this interesting picture. It's interesting, the Bible says that Egypt is Pharaoh's land, and that means like the land of slavery. We've been there before. It says that Israel is Jacob's land or his people's land. That's the land flowing of milk and honey. That's the land with cattle and fields. But it says that the desert is God's land. Like God dwells in the desert. Very often, maybe if you go through a desert season, it feels like oh I'm under a curse or I'm sinful. That's not always true. Sometimes when you go through a desert season, just as the Jews going through the wilderness, God is preparing you and making you into a new person. But I'm going to believe today that that season for your life is over.

God is Doing a New Thing

That although you've been dwelling with the Lord in your dry season, God has a place flowing with milk and honey ready for you. Or we might even say that that desert place, as the scripture says, is going to become that place of green fields and forests. He's done it before. He's going to do it again in your life. Now the largest desert in the world is an amazing thing. They filmed Star Wars there. It's called the Sahara Desert. It's a wonderful, amazing place. There's hardly any life there. It's incredibly hot, obviously. Sandstorms, and it's almost impossible to cross on foot. When it is crossed, it's crossed by experts who have camels and supplies. They know where all the oases are. I still don't know what plural of oasis is. They have to find multiple oases in the desert, in the Sahara, and a huge; it's incredible for us to picture how big the Sahara is. But imagine a desert that is larger, the whole thing, than the continental U.S. It's humongous. Here you can see a satellite image. You see below in that area of like the Congo and other places is a dense forest, but then above it looks like the surface of the moon. There's just nothing there, right? It's just crags and cracks. But did you know not that long ago, the Sahara was green as an Irishman's shirt. I mean it was green. About five thousand years ago, there was an end of a ten-thousand-year period where the whole northern part of Africa was green. It was green grass, it was forested, there were jungles, and actually this lake here, Lake Chad, was the largest body of fresh water in the world. That Lake Chad, there's still a small Lake Chad today, but this big one, the big version of it, was larger than if you took all of the great lakes combined and put them together; it was even bigger. And people lived here. And actually, we know that these various rivers that would go through what's now the Sahara Desert were ways in which people would travel from the Mediterranean out to the Pacific Ocean, down to Lake Chad, and out into the Indian Ocean. Isn't that amazing? And that only ended five thousand years ago, so that happened within human written history, which I think is just a marvelous thing. What happened was during this time, the northern hemisphere of the globe, because of various orbital cycles, would get warmer. The northern hemisphere would get warmer, and that would pull up the rain from the south because the winds would blow in a northerly way at a stronger pace. Don't really ask me, as I said before, about 20% of what I'm saying is not true, but I just don't know which 20% it is so before you repeat this stuff, make sure you just Google it. But it's something like that. The most interesting thing to me, though, is that that age, although it's ended, that age is coming again. So the Sahara has been a forest and a desert in the last eight million years, two hundred and thirty times. Two hundred and thirty different times it went green forest, horrible desert. God will make the Sahara green again. Who would know looking at a vast space of no plant life, nothing, no trees, no grass, maybe there's bugs, I don't know. We'll say there's bugs, and that's it. Just a vast array of hot nothing. God has a plan in the future to turn the Sahara into a place full of water and greenery and grass and waterfalls again. That might happen in your lifetime. Isn't that amazing? It probably won't. It'll probably be about ten thousand years from now, but it might happen in your lifetime. The point I'm saying is can you imagine what it would be like if it did happen in our lifetime? What it would be like to see the Sahara Desert turn into a forest full of animals. It would be amazing. Can you imagine, although it feels like part of your life has been a desert for so long, can you imagine what it's going to be like when God brings life to dry bones in your living? When God looks at your life and you say Lord, I've got nothing left, and He says no, you've got so much more ahead of you, if only you knew. My prayer and belief for you today is that we serve a God who turns deserts into forests. We serve a God, as the song goes, who turns graves into gardens and that a huge part of achieving that life for you is just believing. How often did Jesus say to His disciples, "oh you of little faith." When He said it, He didn't say it in a condescending way, He didn't say it to curse them, He said it like He was teasing them because He knew that it was going to come in their life, that the kingdom would come, a kingdom of healing and joy and overflowing. That's what God has in store for your life, if you believe with me today that what Isaiah says is true. God is doing a new thing. God's going to bring water and springs to the deserts of your life. If you're at home right now and you're watching and nobody's around, just say it out loud: God, I receive it. God, I receive water in the desert. And why don't we say it here together. Say it with me: God, I receive water in the desert. (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – God, I receive water in the desert) Disneyland and church are not that different. It's a place you don't have to be cool. You don't have to be too cool to sing. It's a place where you can be full of joy, where you can say the things that you believe. And sometimes, even if we don't believe it, just saying it out loud stirs our heart and brings us to where we need to go. That brings me to conspiracy theories. You should be glad to know that this part of my sermon was originally like 20-minutes long. I'm hopefully going to get it down to like two minutes. There's a great thinker I really enjoy – his name is Ray Dalio. I don't know if he's a Christian.

God is Doing a New Thing

He's not a Christian author, but he's actually a hedge fund manager, a billionaire. That makes some of you instantly hate him, but really, he's a brilliant guy. Think of like a little bit younger Warren Buffett-type person. A bit of a philosopher. And he's been writing – in his retirement. He's 72 years old, and he's been doing these great books called Principles, and they're principles about investing and living life and making good decisions. Some of its very good. Reminds me a bit of like Marcus Aurelius, who's an old philosopher I enjoy reading. This work he just did is on the changing world order, and he sees himself as a bit of a historian, and he says he's been studying the last five hundred years, and he says this modern era of finance really began with the Netherlands. That Holland had this huge spike where they became the world's banking and business center, but when they sort of started living in luxury and outsourcing their production to England, England began to emerge as the world's global leader. And then right around the second world war, there was this country, the United States of America that emerged and became the world's leader. And now he says – I think many of us feel this – that the U.S. is in some kind of a decline. It's hard to put our finger on it, it's not really in the economic numbers as much, but you see some telltale signs that things aren't going well. Try to ignore that red flag that's going up on the right side, by the way, that says China. Ray Dalio doesn't ignore it at all, but many of us feel like is that the future? I don't know. I don't know if that's the future, but the cool thing about this book that I'm working through now, it's a little bit dense, is it says it doesn't have to be that way. We can change. But will we? Who knows. That brings me to the whole concept of a changing world order. Who's in charge of the world? And many of us are starting to ask that question. With COVID and big pharma, and now a looming war, and nuclear prospects, and even before that, weird stuff happening all over in the global network, many of us are asking is this the new world order? Is it the illuminati? Everybody get your tinfoil hats out – this is going to be fun. Have you taken a look at the backside of your dollar bill? It's bizarre. Now if you look a euro or you look at like a Australian dollar or something, it always looks very normal. It just has like a king or a queen on it, or a cool building. And then you look at ours and it's like what is the deal with the thirteen-layer pyramid with the masonic eye over it, and all these weird.. look at that. This is just on my kitchen counter; I took a picture last night. When you work your way up, it's called the eye of God, and I actually researched it this week, and it's like a big question mark. Maybe you know more than I do, but this phrase at the bottom – “Novus ordo seclorum” is the new order of the ages, which is from an old poem. But some people think it means the new world order, and it's this conspiracy of the illuminati. A lot of people are talking about this and the currency and cryptocurrency. Are you following me? Do I sound like a sane person? This is what I want everybody to do right now. I want everybody to say who knows, who cares. Are we ready? Here we go. Are you ready? Here we go. (AUDIENCE JOINS – who knows and who cares). Exactly right. Exactly right. Because you want to know something? If there's masons and illuminati controlling the world, if it's the Vanderbilt, is that what they call, or if you're a big fan of the movie The Pentaverate, you know what that's from. No, nobody? That's from Honey I Married an Ax Murderer.. is that.. oh I'm mixing it. Hannah doesn't know. I don't know anyway either. If there's some weird conspiracy theory to control the world, if some group is taking over, if there's a changing world order, if the U.S. is on decline or on a rise or whatever, there's one thing I know: there's not a lot I can do about it. I don't know about you. You might be able to do something about it. But there's not a lot about that that I can change. You know what I can change? You know what I can change? I can change what I say to people and in the world around me. I can change my habits. I can change my thoughts. I can change the way I treat people. I can change the things I consume. If I do life with Jesus, He can change me. And if I'm a new person, the worst things in the world can happen, and I can stick my tongue out at them. A nuclear bomb can be on its way, and I can cross my arms and stick my tongue out at that nuclear bomb, as C.S. Lewis said, because I live in the eternal reality of the kingdom of the heavens. I can enjoy every moment right now knowing that I'm doing life with the Lord. All of us will die someday, but a lot of us don't truly live, as William Wallace said. Right? That's a rip off. But it's true. That all of us have this moment.. you have this moment with the Lord right now, and there's so much in life that bogs down our thinking and our thoughts. We can't change it. But I know I can change something in my life! And so can you. And if we change and become the people God's called us to be, and participate in what He's doing now, we can have the richest life God's called us to have. Eternal life is the quality of God's life. It's not just long. Eternal life is the quality, richness, and goodness of God's life made available to me right now in the Holy Spirit because of Christ crucified and raised from the dead. I can live forever and approach the throne of God just like a little kid approaches his dad who happens to be a king. I can do that, and so can you. Isn't that good news?

God is Doing a New Thing

That is, its good news. Who cares, who knows. I know what I can change and today I'll change it and so will you. Amen? God's doing a new thing in your life, and it is going to be excellent and worthy. It's interesting because John the Baptist had disciples, and his disciples came to Jesus, and they said 'John the Baptists disciples fast. How come your disciples don't fast?' And He says to them, 'you don't fast at a wedding. You don't fast when you're with the bridegroom. Why would you fast when you go to a party? You don't sew new cloth onto an old garment, it'll rip. You don't put new wine in an old wineskin, or it will tear.' You know what wine is in the Bible as a symbol? Wine is the symbol of joy, of celebration, and of abundance. Jesus says plainly, I have wine, fresh wine for my disciples. Why would they fast? Yes, there are seasons as Christians we're supposed to fast, but what He's saying here is even deeper. That you don't put new wine in old wineskin. Back in the day, back when I was a little, a more degenerate than I am today, I used to brew beer, and I remember, Hannah and I were newlyweds; we've been married almost 20 years now, but I was making beer in the kitchen, and my first beer was called the old dutchman. And it was very good, actually. But I remember we were trying to make this beer, and I was learning all sorts of things, and one of the things you forget is if you put a beer into a bottle too soon, or if you put too much sugar in there for a charge – that's the thing that makes it bubbly – that it will explode. It was 2:00 in the morning, we're sleeping, we live in an okay part of town but not great. And so we're sleeping and all of a sudden, we hear (POP POP) like this, and both of us sit up in bed, we turn all the houselights on, we're looking through the house for a while, and finally we're like I don't know what that was, because it sounded like it was in the house. We went to bed, we got up early the next morning, groggy eyed because we didn't sleep well, and you could see caked dried beer on the side of the wall leaking and I open and there are broken bottles, and Hannah looked at me and she said, make music, not beer. You're done brewing. No, she didn't say that. No, I'm just kidding. This is how she said it. She's like hey, hey, I know you like this, but it's probably time to wrap it up. But actually, as a Christian, when Jesus says you don't put new wine in old wineskin, I know what He means. If you put new wine, like if you're making wine, we live in California, there's a lot of wineries. You put it in an old wineskin, it's going to blow up. This is an actual old wineskin from Israel. If you put fresh wine in there, it's going to destroy the wineskin. Does that make sense? The reason God doesn't put new wine in old wineskin is because He loves the old wineskin. The reason He doesn't put new wine in you is not that He doesn't have new wine ready, it's that you're not ready to receive it. If God puts new wine in old wineskin, it will harm the wineskin and the wine. God has wine, a symbol of joy, abundance ready for you, but sometimes God wants you to transform into new wineskin. Lord, would you make me into new wineskin so I can receive what you have in my life. Let's pray that prayer in our hearts today, that God would transform us into new wineskin so that we can receive from Him His joy and abundance. Look, just because you're old doesn't mean you're old wineskin. And just because you're young, doesn't mean you're new wineskin. There are plenty of young people who are stick in the muds, and there are plenty of old people who are full of joy. Let's make a decision today, no matter how young or how old or too anything you are, that you will continually be the kind of person that is inviting God to transform your heart to be new wineskin to receive fresh wine from Him. It might be a painful process, but Lord, I just say turn my heart into new wineskin so I can receive. God has fresh wine for you. He's got fresh water in the desert of your life. So Lord, change us and transform us in the spirit so that we can receive fresh wine from you. You might say how do I do that? Well, the first thing I would say is in a way you don't do that. God does it. You just got to ask Him. But there are some practical things we can do in order to become new wineskin in God's kingdom. The short answer is become a disciple; become a happy student of Jesus. Commit your life to Him. But I would give you one kind of easy quick tip. And it's not the thing you're probably thinking I would say, and that is change what you say and change what you consume. Change what you say and change what you consume. It's my last thought. The words you speak are coding your life. You know what I mean by coding? Every website you go to, anytime you participate in something digital, there's a person who wrote a code that made the thing that you're experiencing. Every app on your phone, everything that you watch, if you watch it online, has coding behind it. And really that makes sense because even your DNA has a code. When God created the universe, He did it with words. I believe that when you speak out in life, when you use the kinds of words God wants you to use, your life begins to change. The scripture says it plainly. That a man's tongue, that is how he talks, is like the bit in a horse' mouth. It's like the rudder of a ship. The words you say will be the future of your life. And so often, we just carelessly use words that are probably harming us and others.

God is Doing a New Thing

Imagine you were designing an app on a phone through coding and then all of a sudden just as a joke, you went check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, check, like this randomly. That would be such a mess, wouldn't it? That would be such a huge deal. And yet we do that with our words. And a lot of the stuff we consume, I don't mean to be like a purity Nancy this or that, but I do think we do have to be careful; instead of looking at the stuff that you know that's not good for you to consume. Instead of looking at as sinful, I look at it as like fast food. A little bit is not going to hurt you, but if you're eating McDonald's all the time, and some of us do. I've had those seasons. If you just consuming this stuff, it's like consuming junk food and it's coding your heart, your mind, your thinking. So let's change the words we consume and change the words we speak. I'll make you a promise, though. If you just simply today believe that the new thing God is doing in your life is not just good, it's great, and you faithfully in your heart say Lord, I'll follow you anywhere, even in the difficult parts of the road, I promise you you won't regret it, and that the fruit that will be born of you trusting God and trusting in His word will reap amazing benefits in your life. God's doing a new thing in your life. He's going to turn the Sahara back into a forest. He's going to turn your life into the land that He promised. So let's just believe it today. And we do, Lord. We thank you for all you've given us. Most of all, we thank you for your word, that we can trust in what it says about us today. Thank you for the people you put into our lives to encourage us to be more like you. To love us when we're hurting. Thank you, God that you're doing a new thing in our lives. We trust in it, and we receive it, in Jesus' name, amen.

BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

Thank you so much for gathering with us today. As I said before, Sunday's the first day of the week. I think it's so much better when you begin your week rooted in God's house. Getting your mind right, prepared for a new day, and enter into the week full of promise and hope. Just want to say way to go, you made it to church and we're so glad that you're here. Come back again next week. Bring a friend if you're feeling brave, and we'll look forward to seeing you then. 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.