

Hour of Power Deutschland
Steinerne Furt 78
86167 Augsburg

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

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

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

IBAN:
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestr. 11
8594 Güttingen
Tel.: 071 690 07 81
info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch
www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

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

Hour of Power, 07.05.2023

GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And hello visitors and church family. We are so happy that you're here today. Heart in the Bible or in Hebrew does not just mean emotions, it also means our choices. So yes, let's be the kind of people that love the Lord our God with all of our choices. You are loved.

BS: We're so grateful you're here today, and we believe God has an awesome thing in store for you today. We're going to talk about the importance of having God's long-term goals before our mind. A promised land that draws us through tough times. He'll get you through whatever tough time you're going through. Let's pray: Father, we thank you in Jesus' name that we can become more and more like Christ every day. We ask your Holy Spirit to help us do it, and we ask it in the strong name of Jesus, all God's people said, amen.

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

SCRIPTURE – 1. Corinthians 10,10-13 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, 1st Corinthians 10:10-13. And do not grumble as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall. No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear, but when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. Amen.

INTERVIEW – Jose Rodriguez (JR) and Bobby Schuller (BS)

Jose Rodriguez is the founder and CEO of Rescue a Generation, Inc. His non-profit aims to reach struggling students who, due to unfortunate circumstances, find themselves not doing as well in school or at home. Jose dealt with a number of challenges as a teen, and has used his experiences and transformation to encourage and inspire youth all over the country. His new book, Rescue a Generation: Reaching the Least, the Last, and Lost, now looks at how we can help those who need direction and belonging.

BS: Jose, hi. Great to see you.

JR: You as well.

BS: Well Jose, I love your ministry. You and I have been friends for a long time, and your wife Erica was a big important part of our team here, worked here for a long time, and now you guys are doing your own thing, but we're so great to have you in the house. For those who don't know you, tell us a little bit about your ministry and your heart.

JR: Well our ministry is called Rescue a Generation. We are currently working on 37 middle school and high school campuses with some of the most at-risk students on those campuses. It came about because I feel like I'm proof that God still rescues people, and so because God snatched me out of gangs and poverty and drugs, I just made a commitment at an early age that I'd do whatever it took to go after students who are in the similar circumstances, and now we get a chance to do that at a really large rate, with an incredible team around us, but really we want to be in the trenches with students who are struggling.

BS: Now tell me a little bit about your story. I was surprised to hear.. I didn't know this, that you were in gangs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, my old stomping grounds, not Los Angeles.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

JR: No. Originally born and raised in north Tulsa, about a mile away from what's known for the Tulsa race massacre, so I was the only Latino in this all-black neighborhood. My dad was a drug dealer. He got sent to prison when I was in seventh grade, and I made a choice that I was going to join a gang, was arrested for stealing cars, just on a path to going nowhere. But an outreach ministry started to come into the neighborhood to reach me, started going to church because they had girls and pizza, and so I was like I'm there, right?

BS: Two awesome things.

JR: Exactly. But I got disciplined in that outreach ministry into the faith, and so..

BS: What church was it, by the way?

JR: Victory Christian Center.

BS: Oh, Victory, Paul Daugherty's church.

JR: Yes, absolutely.

BS: A great church. We love them. And so now you're here, and a lot of people would be surprised to know north Tulsa is a super dangerous place, way more dangerous actually than south central. I was surprised by that, our own dangerous backyard here in Los Angeles. It's amazing how when you go through tough times, God can use people that seem like in the worst places, isn't it?

JR: Absolutely. I feel like the apostle Paul makes it clear. Remember not any of us were wise when God first called us. All of us were broken at some level, but I love my story because wherever God brought me, I'm so thankful that He brought me out of it, because now we can go back into those same environments, those same situations. I'm not afraid of it. Right? Can hit it head on and hopefully help to rescue a few students in the process.

BS: I wanted to have you here because your new book *Rescue a Generation*, which is also the name of your ministry, is such a good book. It's a short book, easy to read, but I want to encourage people to get it because now more than ever, the older generation needs to bless the younger generation. The older generation needs to learn, because it's an education, right? It's something you could read about. We need to learn to reach the next generation. So often, especially gang members, we forget these are kids, most of the time. They're dangerous kids, but they're still kids. What is something.. I'm seeing sort of in my heart and mind's eye a grandmother who has a son that's maybe not in a gang, or maybe he is, but just is lost in some way. Or a mother, or father who has a son, a daughter or something that's lost. What is a different way people can start to think?

JR: Yes, great question. I love that it's not ministries or programs or organizations that change lives, its people. And it's the presence of a person in the life of a young person that ten times out of a ten will be the force that causes them to turn their way. And so the more present we can be, the better we'll be for this generation. And so that means asking questions, learning from them, right? Asking them how they're feeling and processing. I talk a lot about gangs, but also I mean we're looking at a generation that's drowning through anxiety and depression and just social and emotional issues that they're struggling with. And so all of those issues are a system of brokenness. And so the more present we can be in the life of a student, the better off their chances to have a turn-around into a better life.

BS: There was something you say in the book, and you had said earlier to me about earning the right, or something like that – earning the ability to speak into someone's life, not just assuming you can do it.

JR: I think decades ago, especially in the church world, right, we assume that people would listen because we're leaders and pastors and ministry leaders. This generation is not like that. We now have to earn the right to speak into their life in a very real way, and you earn the right through relationships. Students don't care what you know until they know that you care. And the more that you care, the more you show them that you care, the more you show up for them, the more they're going to be open to correction, to your authority in their life, and I often say..

BS: And they're okay with authority, right?

JR: ..they are. I often say that they're not afraid of authority, and it's a huge misconception, they're just afraid of misused and abused authority. But I would often say that love without authority is passive. Authority without love is abuse. And so often times we try to have authority, but we don't have the love relationship with students. If you build the relationship first, the authority piece will come, and they'll be so much more open to listening to what you have to say.

BS: That's good. What about, and I know this is galling for a lot parents and grandparents, what about apologizing for some of the mistakes we've made. See a lot of times we think we lose authority if we do that, but it's the opposite.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

JR: Not at all. This generation is looking for authenticity, and how they know you're real is when you're honest and vulnerable about your own mess-ups. And so the more honest we can be about our own struggle, the better off and more relatable we can be to them where they'll be open to hearing it from us. So the more you can say I'm sorry, the better off it'll be, I believe, for students because they'll identify with somebody who's not perfect, who doesn't have it all together, and then it helps them realize I don't have to be perfect either. I can grow, as well.

BS: That's awesome. I want you to know your son or daughter are not lost. Your grandson, your granddaughter, they're not lost, but sometimes we need to make the personal changes to become the kind of parents and grandparents they need. If you need some info and some help doing that, get this book. Rescue a Generation. Wow, what a good title for a book by Jose Rodriguez. Jose, thank you so much for your ministry. Thank you for helping us reach our kids. And thank you for being an example of what the gospel can do in someone's life. Appreciate you.

JR: Thanks Bobby.

BS: Hey before we send you off, I want to make sure that I give you a copy of this. I know you have a lot of goals and dreams for the coming week. We give this to all of our partners. It's our planner for this year, and our calendar. We're running out of them, but we want to make sure you guys get some to say thank you.

JR: Thank you so much.

BS: We appreciate you. God bless you, my friend.

JR: Absolutely.

BS: Thank you, we love you.

WELCOME TO INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES – Bobby Schuller

We also have our international conference this week, and four of our five directors are here. I'm going to do it backwards this time. Frank, would you stand up? This is Frank from Germany. We have Marianna from Hong Kong visiting. We have Rina from Canada visiting. And our friend Chris from the Netherlands. Welcome Chris. And for the four of you, and anyone else, we're just so grateful that you're here today. We have a little surprise for you.

THANK YOU TO ORCHESTRA – Bobby Schuller

Thank you. I think everybody pieced that together. That was a four national anthems, right? Over Song of Peace or Finlandia. Marc, you just put that together in Marc's kitchen, right? You just cooked it up yourself? Thank you. What a gift you are. So much talent on our team. We're grateful.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller – Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

The older I get, the more convinced I am that our world does not need to forget and move on, but that rather our world needs atonement; a heavy Biblical bronze age word, but one we need. Our new world needs old solutions, and the best solution ever made for the predicament we find ourselves in is atonement. Atonement. There are some things that many of us have done that we carry within us and around us and in our memory, and the best the world can do is say try to move on, this type of thing. But if you want to be the type of person whose home is in heaven, you have to be cleansed from that. One thing that makes us all equal is we're all sinners. We've all messed up. But if you're found in Christ, you're not a sinner anymore, you're made into a brand-new creation. And so I want to encourage you today, if you're hearing this, so many of us never make the decision to just come before God and say I've messed up, forgive me, would you save me. I want to encourage you to do that today, to know that your home is in heaven; to not be on the fence. If you make a decision today to invite Christ into your life, will you text me? I want to pray for you. Text the word HOPE to the number on the screen. Well, so many people today are feeling sick about their life. They're sick about their finances. They're sick about their job situation, or they hate their jobs. They're sick about their family situation, their marriages, or their inability to find someone, or where they find themselves in life. I remember a time when I was sick often, and that was on a boat. I grew up on boats. Here in southern California there's a lot of fishing and this type of thing, and my dad, of course, loves to fish, and so I found myself on little boats, giant boats, ugly boats, beautiful boats, all the time. And one of the biggest problems I had was I get easily seasick. Now if you have a fear of death, I would encourage you to get seasick, because that fear goes away. All you want to do is die. And so the funny thing for me is the more I'm on boats, the less it's a problem, but if some time goes by and then I get back on a boat, I start to get seasick again.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

And there's some principles you develop if you face this a lot in life. Here's rule number one for not getting seasick, or for getting out of seasickness: don't go inside the cabin. A lot of boats, big boats and small boats, they have a little bed, a little room, or a big room or big space on the inside. If you go inside, there's a weird sea smell that gets caught inside. Just don't do it. And the number one reason you don't do that is it takes your eyes off the horizon, and that's rule number two. You want to go outside where there's a lot of wind coming in your face and you want to keep your eyes on the horizon. If you go outside where there's fresh wind, fresh air, especially sunlight, and you keep your eyes on the horizon, it will help a lot with your sickness. In life, so many of us, we're sick of our lives because it's like being on a boat, you just look everywhere and all there is is ocean as far as the eye can see. It's hard to believe when you've been out on the water for three days, and all you have seen is the same water morning, noon and night, day after day after day. It's hard not to feel like am I really going anywhere? Is this boat just going in circles? Maybe you feel that way today. I want to encourage you to keep your eyes on the horizon. Today, I'm going to talk about the value and importance of having concrete long term goals for your life, and how this is a major thing that God wants for us, and also it's a major cure to the sickness that so many of us face in life today. It's the promised land. It's the promised land. If you want to get to the promised land in your life, you cannot fix your eyes on the desert and the weather and the scorpions and the sand. See, anybody can get through a desert if they know they're going to a promised land. But so many of us all we can see is the desert, and so all we want to do is escape in whatever way we can the deserts we find ourselves in. God wants you to go through a process while you're in the desert, but He doesn't want you to do it without a promise in your heart. Can I make you a promise? The promise God has for you will pull you through the process you're going through. Having a process right now in and of itself can be tiresome, boring, difficult, stressful, but having a process with a promise, a promissory reason, a destination, a place I'm going makes it all worth it. What is the promised land? Maybe you didn't grow up reading the Bible, you don't know what I'm talking about. The promised land was a special place God had for a special people, a people who had been freed from slavery, who had to walk across a desert to enter a place, as God called it, a land flowing with milk and honey. What does milk and honey mean? It means prosperity. It means luscious land, good farmland. It means animals and crops. It means everything a freed person in the bronze age would want. Here's a way of saying what the promised land is for us because for most of us, God is not calling us to pack up our bags and move to Israel. Maybe some of us are. I'm here, Lord, if you want to call me. I love Israel. But the promised land for us as believers is this: it's God's long-term goals for my life easily lost by today's temptations. There are a million and one things today that you are facing that will get your eyes off the promised land, and get them on the sand, or on the desert, that will get your eyes off the horizon, and pull you into the cabin of that boat, and make you sick. Anyone sick of your life today? Anyone feeling sick about where you are? That's good. Say Lord, I'm thankful I'm sick of my life. You know why? Because you have the opportunity today to make a change, to make a difference, and to set before yourself a long-term goal that will pull you through the process, that will pull you through the desert, that will get you through what you're going through. That's the amazing thing about big, beautiful, inspiring personal goals. Those goals pull you as you're going through tough times. They pull you out of bed. They pull you through meetings. They pull you through tough times and difficult conversations. And that's the amazing thing about these goals is you don't just build your goals; your goals build you. If you build a dream, your dream will build you. If you develop a future for yourself, that future's going to develop you. Isn't that wonderful? If you create in your mind's eye and in your heart an idea of where you can be five years from now, that creation is going to create you. It's amazing what believing in our future does to pull us through whatever it is we're going through. When those slaves were brought to the promised land, by the way, there was one caveat I forgot to mention. It was full of giants. See, God will take you to the promised land, but on your way there, you have to become a giant slayer. Oh, did I forget to mention that? See the great thing about the big goals God has for your life is not just what you achieve, it's who you become. God is excited, not just about what you're going to achieve in your life, He's excited about who you're going to have to become to achieve those goals. The promised land is set aside for giant slayers like you. You say to me, I'm not a giant slayer. I say to you, you're probably right. So then what? Become a giant slayer. Become who you need to be. One day, one week, one month at a time. It's called discipleship. It means that you work into your life a pattern of disciplines and rhythms that build up in you something you thought you never could become, and you will. You will. If you want to become that kind of a person, you need to keep that kind of a goal before your eyes all the time.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

Don't get sick. Don't go into the cabin. Don't stare at the sand. Keep in your mind's eye the promised land that God has for you. Hannah read 1st Corinthians chapter 10. I'm not going to read it again, but I would encourage you if you're listening to the podcast or if you're watching on YouTube, to just pause the video and read 1st Corinthians, the whole chapter, chapter 10. But it's a really wonderful message that the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth. The church in Corinth is made up of mostly Gentiles. Corinth was a gorgeous city. It had been destroyed a hundred years before Paul was writing, and then rebuilt by Julius Caesar into a thriving metropolis on the sea, full of wealth and power. Most of the people that were here were not from rich families or aristocracies. They were liberated slaves. They were soldiers of fortune. They were anyone who came to this place a free town to build a business or build a life. A very strong merchant class. These were people that are a lot like countries like America where there's full of people that pick themselves up, they immigrate, they're bootstrap, this type of a person. And so because of that, the country is full of wealth, of personal achievement, but there's also a growing gap between the wealthy and the poor. There is a growing temptation for the church that's there to only turn their eyes towards fleshly things. And Paul writes them and tells them about a story of his own people. He says 1,500 years ago. Let me tell you a story about my people 1,500 years ago. He said the Jews were freed from Egypt. God freed them and as a people, they were, this is Paul's words, not mine, they were baptized when they went through the Red Sea, when God parted the Red Sea for them, and they ate spiritual bread, because of the manna from heaven, and spiritual drink, because they'd drank water from the rock, who Paul says was Christ. So it's like they've totally had.. what does this sound like? Our rights: baptism, communion, they had become totally immersed into what it means to be one of God's people. And then they got lost. Guess how long it takes. This is a good question. Guess how long it takes to walk from Egypt to the promised land. Guess how long. The answer – 11 days. It takes 11 days to go from Egypt to the promised land. How long did it take them? Do you remember? Forty years. Here's something we can learn from that. Movement is not necessarily achievement. If I walk and walk and walk in circles doing the same thing over and over, I am not necessarily making progress. Do you feel that way? Maybe you do. What should have taken 11 days took 40 years. Why? Paul tells us. Almost immediately at Mt. Sinai, the first stop on the way to the promised land, Moses goes up and receives the word from God, he brings the law down to his people, the people say that sounds like a great idea. We'll sign up and we'll do that. Moses says great, now I'm going to go talk to God about the tabernacle. Goes back up the mountain to talk to God about the tabernacle, they can literally see God in a cloud up on top of the mountain, and they take all that gold that God gave them, and fashioned it into an idol, worshipped it and then went into mass group debauchery and revelry. Okay? So this is what Paul tells them. He says even though they were baptized and all this stuff, this weird thing happened where first they went to idols, and then they went into revelry, and then they went into grumbling, and then Paul says, and now their bodies are scattered all over the desert. That's some old testament stuff, isn't it. That's some bronze age tough Bible stuff. And Paul says this is written as a warning. Why? Because he's saying, even though this happened 1,500 years ago, it's still happening today. And maybe I could say, even though Paul was writing 2,000 years ago, it's what? Still happening today! Very few things change, and most of all, man's nature rarely changes unless man chooses to change it. Its written as a warning to us. Long term goals are easily lost by today's temptations. Maybe we could say Paul was telling us today this is Paul's guide to destroying your life in three easy steps. You want to destroy your life? Here's a great guide. I'll show you right now. Number one: Idols. What does that mean for us today? Idols is basically saying materialism. Not like shopping, but I mean the classical sense of materialism; that the only thing that exists or matters or worth paying attention to is what I can see, or what I feel. Think about the importance so many people put on how I feel right now. And how I feel right now affects what I eat, how I treat people. How I feel right now, does that have an impact on your goals, you think? Absolutely. How many businesses, marriages have been destroyed because somebody felt something. How many lives, how many horrible words were spoken because I felt something in that moment. The idea of idolatry; there's not a lot of idols in the classical sense anymore, but there is idolatry, that is bowing down to a god I can see. Bowing down to a god I can touch. And Paul says that's the first thing. So if you want to destroy your life, just focus on today. Don't think about the.. just today what you can focus on, bow down to a god you can see, touch, taste and hear. And he said number two, that leads to the flesh, right? That we give into the flesh. The flesh means a pattern of giving in and giving up. Giving in and giving up. I just give in to that bag of potato chips. I just give into watching TV all day long.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

I just give in to buying that thing I can't afford, and I'm just going to keep giving in, and yes, I might have long term goals, but I'm just going to give up on that. Helping my kids with my homework is too much today. Going on a walk with my wife is too much today. Reaching out to people who are hurting, that's just too much, I can't do that today. And so that's the next thing is you just day by day, you give in and give up a little bit every single day. And then what happens? You're wandering in the wilderness. You're the same place five years later you were five years before. You're sitting there in the wilderness saying where does the time go? Where does the money go? Where do the days and the weeks go? Don't feel bad, we all feel this way sometimes. I'm saying something that all human beings feel, but you feel that way long enough, you get to stage three, this is the final stage, and that is grumbling. Grumbling is it wasn't my fault, it's everyone else's fault, right? Another word for it in the Bible is stiff necked, or hard hearted. It's a shrunken life of your own making that you blame others for. It's not my fault, it's the governments fault. It's not my fault, it's my boss' fault. It's not my fault, it's inflations fault. It's not my fault, it's some other country's fault, my brother's fault, my parents fault, my children's fault, their friends fault, the stupid educational system's fault. We create the blame list because where we find ourselves is embarrassing. And so that grumbling then leads us to the final thing where everything is just unfair. That's a grumbling person's favorite word. It's not fair. And Paul promises us you too can be one of those bodies scattered in the wilderness. All you got to do is these things. So you work your way backwards. You find yourself as a grumbling person, maybe you've been giving in and giving up, and you go back a little further, maybe you've been focusing on today, rather than the future. You've been focusing on only what you can see around you, rather than your long-term goals. But I want to tell you something – see God's plan for those slave people was to convert them from slaves to conquerors. From slaves to conquerors. He wanted to make giant killers to possess the land, and in God's view, it is never too late for you to become a conqueror. It's never too late for you to become a conqueror. Abraham was 75 years old when he received the promise, and he was 100 years old when he sired that promise. I don't know about you, but I'd love to get a bottle of those vitamins. I'd love to find out what exercise routine he was on. I want to be healthy like that. Moses was 80 years old when he saw the burning bush. Eighty years old. How old was he? A hundred and twenty when he looked across the Jordan at Canaan's side. A hundred and twenty. I ask you, my friend, this is a good question. Is it ever too late for God to turn someone into a conqueror? The answer is no. Can an old dog learn new tricks? The answer is if he wants to. If he wakes up and chooses to. It's a decision you make every day when you wake up whether this day will be yours or whether it will be forfeit. And the thing that pulls you to every day wake up and say this day will be good. It will be mine and I will become better. The thing that brings you there is a clear vision of the promised land. Is to have tattooed on your heart a vision of who God wants you to become and where God wants you to go. I can't tell you what that is. All I can tell you is it's there for you to discover, and there for you to possess. Will you do it? Will you do it? It is so important to define clearly the promises God has for you. I cannot express enough as a friend of yours how important it is to take an abstract idea that I'm giving you like the promised land, and convert it into a concrete measurable date marked specific thing that you achieve. But most people, to be honest with you, when I talk about writing down goals or making goals for your life, most people are allergic to goals. Some of you, you're feeling it right now. If I say write down your goals every day, the feeling you have is like an allergy. It's like I just blew pepper up your nose. You're like oh, that does not sound fun at all. It was my 30th birthday, I remember. We were out to dinner with some really good friends of ours. There were about, I think, eight to ten of us, and it was my 30th birthday. And things were not going well really in my life. We had started this church. We had about 300 people at one point, but then the church, because of things I had done, was in decline. We were down to 50 – 80 people. I had just had my first daughter who was a baby, and my wife was pregnant with my second child, a son on the way, Cohen, and I had.. guess how much money was in my bank account? Zero. And guess what my goals were? Zero. Isn't it amazing how your goals and your bank account are so often aligned? And a great friend of ours, Hillary, the famous Hillary of the famous Chad and Hillary, sweetly asked me at this 30-year birthday, which is a big birthday for a young man, 'hey Bobby, what are your goals for the coming year?' What a great question that is. I love to ask that question. What are your goals for your coming year? And you know what I said to her? I said.. and this has become a joke since then, I said 'I don't have any goals. If I want to do something, I just do it.' Isn't that gross? Oh! Here's the truth: I didn't have any goals. I didn't have any goals. Here's the truth: I didn't have any goals because I didn't make any goals. Here's the truth: every single day I made a choice not to make a goal. Every single day I made a choice to let my life dimmish in ways

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

I didn't want it to. And then I grabbed a powerful idea – what if I write down my five-year goals every day. This sounds like legalism to some people, this sounds like horrible, but like if I tell you writing down your goals every day, most of you go oh, gosh, that sounds like.. I might as well count my calories. That's like the worst thing I've ever heard of. Can I tell you something? Can I tell you about the best part of almost every day I have is when I wake up in the morning and I write down my long term and short-term goals, and I open up my Bible and I read it, and I pray for my friends and family, and I drink God's favorite beverage – coffee. That is one of the best parts of my day. Most people don't like to get up early in the morning. Almost every day I get up before my alarm clock. You know why? Because I've got some amazing goals on that piece of paper. It wasn't easy at first, but now that I am seeing that I am becoming the person in those goals, I get excited when I wake up in the morning. It's like Christmas every day because I get excited about what I'm going to achieve. I get excited about where this church is going. And most of all, I get excited that I'm becoming the kind of man I need to be. The kind of father, the kind of friend, the kind of spouse, the kind of pastor, the kind of giant slayer that possesses the land. I wasn't that so many years before. But look at my life. And see that's the other thing. I'm so grateful that I'm here now because of ideas like this. And ideas like this aren't just good for me. Anybody here been blessed by Hour of Power? Anybody here been blessed by Shepherd's Grove? Then you've been blessed by the idea that having a long-term goal for your life is not just good for you, it's good for others. Don't just become good for you, become good for me. The people in your life need you to become the best version of you. And the best version of you is the one that looks like Christ – full of courage, full of boldness, full of life, full of power because you know where you're going. I don't just mean heaven, and it is that, but I mean where you're going in this life. Where you want to be in five years. You got to know that. There's an incredible power there. I'll just finish with this last word. When I was in like fourth or fifth grade, I discovered the power of zero. Zero is a powerful number. Have you ever tried multiply something times zero? Take the biggest number you can think of, now multiply it times zero. I'm a genius – I can tell you the answer. You know what it is? Its zero. I remember when I was starting to learn how to get a good grade on a report card, and I'd turn in four assignments. The first assignment was a 91%. That's an A. The second one was a 90%. That's an A. The third one was a 92 or a 93%. That's an A. And the fourth one I just kind of forgot to turn in, I just didn't turn anything in. That's a zero, and what does that make my total grade for my class? The answer is a D. You get A, A, A, and one zero turns it all, the whole kit and caboodle into a D. And many of us in life, we have a lot of zero days. And we have zero days. Those zero days turn into zero weeks. Those zero weeks turn into zero months, and those zero months turn into zero years, and we wonder where the years go. That's the power of zero. But we're a positive group, aren't we. Let's turn it around. Let's imagine that the other way. Can you imagine creating for yourself a good day? What if you started your day with your long-term goals in mind, and your short-term goals of how you're going to get there, and you started it with a cup of coffee, or with a prayer, with the Bible. And by the end of that day, you went wow. That was a good day. Now do that seven times in a row. If you do that seven times in a row, you'll look back and you'll go hey, that was a good week. Hey if you can do that four times in a row, you'll look back and go holy mackerel (is the word I was looking for), that was a good month. And if you do that twelve times in a row, you go that was the best year of my life. Full of personal development, new relationships, closeness to God, achieved goals, achieved dreams, a healthier lifestyle because you're designing your life. It's yours to design. No one's stopping you. Make every day matter by beginning with God. And can I just finish with this last thing? Here's the best thing about this. When we cross the finish line of life, of our big goals, of the things that God has put before us, when we cross that finish line, we have to become a kind of person to do that. And although we cross that finish line, which is amazing, you know what we carry with us is the person we had to become to do it, and that is something you keep the rest of your life. The rest of your life. It's your choice. You can do it. I am so proud of you. You're doing better than you think. But some of you are going to forget everything I said, but there's a few of you, and this is who I really care about, I want to pray for you, that today you say I will never be the same again. I am going to decide today what my life will be like in five years, and I will do whatever it takes to become that kind of a person and get there. If you do that, your life will never be the same again. Keep your eyes on the promised land. Keep them on the horizon, and watch what God can do with a lot of good days in a row. We thank you, Lord. Your presence is here. You're in this house. You're with us and we ask by your Holy Spirit that you would give us a fresh vision for our lives of where we could go, of who we could become, of the kind of people we could surround ourselves with, the kind of things that we could achieve.

Keep Your Eyes on the Promised Land

Lord, you said greater things than these will you do. We want to believe that can be true in our lives. Make us miracle working people, people full of faith and life, and we ask that you would help us now. How we love you, and how all we do, we do it to honor the name of Jesus Christ, and it's in His name we pray, all God's people said, amen.