

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](mailto:info@hourofpower.de)  
[www.hourofpower.de](http://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](mailto:info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch)  
[www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch](http://www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch)

Spendenkonto:

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

Hour of Power, 16.07.2023

### 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: Hello visitors and church family. We are just so, so happy that you're here. You know, the Bible says that it is impossible for God to lie. Dare to believe all, all that Christ says today. You are loved.

BS: Amen. Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that your Holy Spirit is here with us. And many of us, God, are coming to this place for hope and for healing, encouragement, or watching online, on TV. We're praying, God that you'd fill us with your spirit and help us to be more like Jesus. We love you. It's in His 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 – Matthäus 5,13-15 - Hannah

In preparation for the message, Matthew 5:13. You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – Joshua Norwood (JN) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Well Joshua Norwood is a singer and a worship leader, originally from Sumpter, South Carolina, who most recently served at Saddleback Church. In the spring of 2021, Joshua was hospitalized with COVID-19 for three months, and given a 10% chance to live. He was also uncertain if he'd be able to sing again. But after a long road to recovery, he continues to use his voice to glorify God and inspire others through worship. Please welcome with me, Joshua Norwood.

BS: Hi Joshua, how are you?

JN: Well, thank you.

BS: So nice to meet you. So we've come through a very rough patch, not just in the U.S. but just globally, and I mean we're still in a world that it looks like COVID will just kind of be here forever, but we're grappling with that, but what a scary time for you. And before we get to that, let's just begin. Where did your faith journey start and how did you become a worship leader?

JN: Yes, my faith journey started.. I'm really a country guy. I was born in Sumpter, South Carolina. My grandfather was a pastor and we actually lived on his farmland, so I went to church every Sunday. I was kind of.. it wasn't an option. But as a young kid I loved church. I loved music. I used to beg my parents to allow me to come back with my grandparents for after service musicals. And even outside it, really as a young kid, I really felt that God had His hand on my life, but I didn't know what it really meant, but I was always interested with God and interested in learning more about Him. So at six years old, my grandfather actually baptized me and throughout my journey, we actually moved to Georgia, and from there we joined a church that really helped me to I guess grow in my faith, and that's where I learned that I needed to not only make Jesus my Savior, but for Him to be Lord of my life. And that my life needed to change. And so I believe around 11th grade was when I made that choice I'm going to allow God to be the Lord of my life and place my trust in Jesus. And I began leading worship there, so I was kind of a young kid leading worship sometimes with the adults but I just had a love for music.

BS: So you ended up coming out to Saddleback here in California. What a big culture shift to go from the country, as you said, South Carolina, then Georgia, then to come out to California. What was that like and how did that happen?

## You Are Not a Wallflower

JN: You know it was a faith journey. I felt like God had been preparing me probably all my life because I moved from a small country Sumpter, South Carolina to Atlanta, and that was a much bigger, but in California, I felt like God was leading me to kind of step out and pursue music on a larger scale. And so when I came to visit, I fell in love with California. I felt like it was the place where God had for me to be. And Saddleback, to be quite honest, I'd been serving the ministry for about over 17 years, so I thought I was going to take a break from ministry, and God said no, so I ended up at Saddleback and it truly ended up being one of the biggest blessings in my life, because when I went through everything that I went through, Saddleback was right there for me.

BS: That's awesome.

JN: Yes.

BS: So what was that like. I mean I hate to re-visit.. they say it's good after you go through a tough time or trauma, big change in your life, to make sure you look back when the dust has settled, and learn from whatever – that experience. So for me, I hate going back to those first times of COVID, how rough it was. Just everything was rough. And it was particularly rough for musicians, so you make your living singing, and when you sing, you're.. all the stuff was coming out of your lungs. And then you actually got COVID and almost died from it. How did that happen? What was that journey like for you?

JN: So it happened.. I was actually doing a ministry date in Miami. I got off the plane and I didn't feel well. And I was prayerfully thinking maybe it's just a bad flight, maybe I'm just tired; it was back-to-back. But I took a nap. Sure enough, I woke up, I didn't feel well. And something inside me felt like I probably have COVID. And I'm younger, I'm getting older, but I'm a younger guy so I feel like, well maybe I'll be okay. But I went to the.. I had a fever that I just couldn't shake, I had to go to the hospital once, they told me if it got worse to come back. And so I had a fever for probably about four or five days that was high, just wouldn't go down, so I went back to the hospital, and I didn't make it back home until three months later. And so from my time in the hospital, things just escalated. Not only were my lungs affected, but my kidney and my liver were enflamed by COVID. Had no idea that it could happen so they made the choice to intubate me, to put me under..

BS: Intubate meaning that you had the tube go down your..

JN: ..had the tube, but then they also put me under.. basically they medically induced me into a coma for five weeks, and towards the end they actually decided to trach me, to give me a trach..

BS: Actually cut the..

JN: ..yes, so because it just wasn't looking good; they were doing all they could, and so my parents flew in from Georgia, and really they are the heroes because they had to have faith when they heard 10% chance. They said really at this point where Josh is, you don't come back from that. But my parents are people of faith. They would send the doctors report, then they would say this is God's report. Joshua is healed. They said that if Josh makes it, he probably won't be able to sing because he's been intubated for so long that it damaged the vocal cords. They say that's not an option. That's how he makes his living. That's how he serves the Lord.

So my parents held onto faith, and by the grace of God, God's mercy, I made it and it was so crazy, they couldn't even understand after my fourth week how is he still alive? But it was nothing but the grace of God.

BS: What was it like when they put you under in a coma? Were you aware that they were going to do that or were you just so bad you didn't know?

JN: It was a mix. I went in and out of being so bad that I didn't know. Part of what kept me fighting was my mother. We lost my brother about seven years ago, and when I could come to my mom just was a woman of faith, she would not let me.. because there were times honestly I was tired, and I was trying to tell her goodbye, and she would not receive that. And for me, my prayer was Lord, help me to live for my mom. If anything else I didn't want her to experience that. So going under, I told them do whatever you have to do to keep me alive.

BS: Today I'm talking about actually so perfectly; I'm talking about how the will to live comes from a will to love. That when you think of someone else that you want to become someone for, and that's exactly what happened to you. You're like I can die, but not for my mom. My mom can't lose two sons. That's what's in your mind.

JN: Absolutely.

BS: So what did you learn about faith and about God and about your parents and about COVID. Like what was the big lesson you took away from this experience?

## You Are Not a Wallflower

JN: The biggest lesson was God's love. Strange enough, when I started.. it was a week process where they had to kind of wake me up and in some of those spaces, I couldn't move, and I didn't even.. my brain couldn't even comprehend what was going on but I would hear the Holy Spirit say from faith to faith, glory to glory. And that this is not going to take you out. You're going to live.. matter of fact, this is setting you up for what I have for you. And I think I saw the love.. so I experienced the love of God. He was there with me in that space. But for the four weeks under, I really wasn't conscious that much, but I felt people were praying for me. I could feel that my dad was somewhere around interceding for me. But I realized how much God loved me by Him being there with me and by the love of my church family. By the love of the community and my family. And I've learned that praise.. so what was amazing was someone made a CD with all the songs that I had led at Saddleback, and a lot of the songs that God had me singing were songs about resurrection, songs about God's miracle power, and so I was hearing that in my subconscious as I was waking up. And I learned the power of praise truly that worship.. that God intercedes for us when we can't pray for ourselves. The Holy Spirit will intercede for us. And so I just realized how real God is. I've sung about Him all this time, but I got to know Him in a deeper and closer way.

BS: That's awesome. Joshua Norwood, we get to hear you actually sing now so that's part of your testimony is you do sing again, and you're singing for the Lord. And today you're going to sing for us Way Maker. Thank you so much, my friend. God bless you and thank you for your testimony.

JN: Thank you. Thank you.

BS: Awesome.

### MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "You Are Not a Wallflower"

I want to give you an opportunity before I jump right into my message, to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ. In life, we have to make decisions, and very often we don't. I remember when I was in high school and I sort of made this firm decision in my own life. Before that I would have called myself a Christian, for sure. I would have thought, yes, I'm a Christian, but it wasn't something that I woke up for in the morning. All of us have this God-shaped hole, Pasqual says, and until God fills it, everything else will corrupt it. So I want to encourage you, maybe you call yourself a Christian, but you're like I don't really know God. I don't really go to a church, I don't really read my Bible, and you're wondering what's wrong. I want to encourage you today to just make a decision today to follow Christ with all your heart. If you do that, your life will never be the same. And if you do that, I want you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen, and we will pray for you. We actually do that in our staff chapel every week. We pray for the people that tell us that they came to faith, and it's a powerful thing for us, too. We love praying for you, so please do that. Today I'm going to talk about the importance of the will to love. Not the will to live, the will to love. There's a famous and beloved essayist and short story writer, George Saunders, who was invited to give a graduation speech at Syracuse. And when he got up there, he said, there have been a million of these sort of speeches given at these sorts of events, and you usually get an old guy like me, and he comes up here and he tells you all these life lessons that you have, and things that you can do whatever you put your mind to, and these types of things, and that's good and all, but I think when you talk to an old guy, the best thing to ask him is what's your greatest regret in life. And he said I want to answer that for you today. He said first let me tell you what I don't regret. Here's something I don't regret – all of the horrible jobs I've had in my life, and I've had a few, including being a knuckle puller at a butcher shop, whatever that is. I thought ugh. He said I don't regret the many, many times I have been poor and didn't have my next meal. He said I don't even regret the time that I was in the Sumatra and I jumped, as a young man, into a river to go swimming, and then I looked up only to see three hundred monkeys pooping in the river. And then I got sick for seven months. He said I don't even regret that. And I don't even regret the time when I was playing hockey in high school, and after I swung my stick, my hockey stick went flying into the audience and hit the girl that I had a crush on. I don't regret that, either. He said here's what I regret. The times in life where I failed to be a kind person. He said the times - I call them failures of kindness. He used an example of a girl. He said in the seventh grade, there was this girl, kind of a wallflower, her name was Ellen. And she was an awkward kid, didn't have really any friends, and she had those cat-eyed glasses that kids used to wear before they were cool, and back then only old ladies would wear them, not kids, actually. And she would chew her hair a lot and was really quiet, and would look at her feet all the time, and people would tease her and sometimes even bully her and call her names. And she had a lot of hard days at school.

## You Are Not a Wallflower

And he said I would imagine Ellen going home to her mom or parents, and her mom would say hey sweetie, how was your day today? And she would say oh, it was fine. And he said I was not one of those bullies, I never picked on her, I never called her a name, but I never paid her any attention. I never said anything to her. And one day she moved away and I never saw her again. And he said and you know what I regret now that I'm in my 60's and I'm getting on in my years? He said I regret way back then in 7th grade that I didn't be nice to Ellen. That I didn't go out of my way to say something or become her friend or give her a smile, ask her how she's doing. And many of you have regrets like that, too. I know I do. I've got lots of regrets like that, where it's not even like you were a mean person, but you know there was somebody who could have used your help, who could have used a hug, who could have used a nice word or a friend or someone to sit with them, or put their arm around them. I remember once, I maybe told you this story, but I was not far from here at the beach, and I was walking back to my car and I was walking down the sidewalk through the flower streets, and on the sidewalk there's nobody around, there was a man about my age in a suit, and he was weeping and sobbing. As I got closer to the man, I mean I'm a pastor, right? This is what pastors do. I thought to myself, and I even felt the Holy Spirit tell me, stop and pray with that man. Stop and talk to him. Put your arm around him. Ask him how he's doing. Ask him what's wrong. And so I thought about it, I thought about it, I thought about it, and just kept walking. And then went maybe about another block, and I thought what am I doing? And so I literally ran back, back around the corner, and guess what – he was gone. I've never seen him since. So you have these moments like this, where even now years later, I think every time I walk by that spot, and I do a lot, it's by my favorite beach, I think about how I neglected the Holy Spirit and I let down this man that needed a friend. You see in life you don't regret the lost jobs as much as you think. You don't regret the lost crushes. You don't regret the monkey poop. You regret these moments where even though it might have been a little awkward or a little weird, or it might have been out of your comfort zone and you would have stopped and talked to somebody, comforted someone, encouraged someone, you didn't. These are some of the things that we'll carry with us and remember. But we don't have to. And see the opposite of that is so true. Whenever we actually do stuff, when someone's behind you in line at Starbucks and they tell you they're having a bad day, and even though it's weird, you say can I pray for you? Or you say can I buy your coffee? It's amazing how those moments change our attitude, our emotional wellbeing, our thoughts, our feelings the whole day. You find yourself driving slower, being nicer to other people, things rolling off your back, your work becomes more productive. Isn't that strange. That when we're salt and light in the world, a lot of other things just sort of naturally get better in our lives. We call that salt and light. Jesus reveals to us in His famous sermon that we're salt and light. That's who we are. But, the weird thing about this is the salt can lose its saltiness and the light can lose its loftiness. Isn't that strange? How does salt lose saltiness? And some of you, you remember a time when you used to be nice and salty, and not in the way.. its salty, and light and light, and full of love and kindness to other people. And maybe you lost it. And now you're saying I long for a will to live. I just don't even want to get up in the morning. I feel tired all the time. I saw a T-shirt the other day that said "my favorite childhood memory was my back not hurting." I thought that was a good line. Maybe you feel that way, like your back hurts all the time. That's all you can think about. And very often it's hard to just get out or get motivated or go to work. And so what we think we want is this sort of will to live, this will to go on with life, this will to get up, this will to do, but really what we need is a will to love. When we love people, when we have a reason to become bigger, better, it gives us more power to do those things. I want you to have a bigger life than the one you already have. All of us have one of two decisions we will make in life: to be everything we can be, or to be less than we can be. To do all that we can do with the time that we have, or to do less with the time that we have. To become all that we were born in our DNA and all of our dreams and all those things, or to be less than that. And I want you to be it all. I want you to be the whole kit and kaboodle. I want you to wake up in the morning and be all that you can be with all the time you have to all the people you can be to the best of your ability. And I know you can. Here's the difference – it's not the will to live, it's the will to love. That I'm getting up today because there are people who need salt and light. That is what I'm born to be and born to do. You are not a wallflower. Let other people be a wallflower. That's not you. Let other people do nothing. That's not you. When somebody says somebody else will do it, let the somebody else they're talking about be you. When somebody says oh somebody else will comfort them, somebody else will hug them, somebody else will say something nice, somebody else will pick up the phone, somebody else will write the letter. And if you said well who's that somebody else? Let that somebody else be you.

## You Are Not a Wallflower

Let you become the kind of person that that's what people think of, the person who goes the extra mile for someone who's in pain and in need. If anything, it means to be Christian, that's what it is. It's in Matthew chapter 5 that Jesus gives us this great metaphor of salt and light. He's there on a hill, maybe it's a warm day, it's near the sea of Galilee. You got to see it last summer. I was there, I preached from there. Beautiful water, wildflowers. But there are probably hundreds or even thousands of hurting people. Many of them are sick. Many of them are afraid, poor, old, single moms. They come to Jesus because they're in desperate need of help. They need salt and light. And Jesus says to them, Matthew chapter 5, it's so weird Jesus doesn't say I am the salt of the earth, and He is, but He says to these people: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It's no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the whole house. In the same way, let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father who is in the heavens." Okay, now it may sound normal to you to be called salt, but to me when I read this the first time, it sounds weird. Like what if somebody's like hey, I want you to know something. You're pepper. Hey buddy, you are cloves. All right. What is it about salt? So in Jesus' day, during the Roman Empire, salt is super important for a lot of reasons. We're divorced from it in history because we invented this thing called the refrigerator. I have two of them! One in my house, in my house, my kitchen, and one in my garage, for all like the extra stuff. That's America for you, right? In those days, they didn't have refrigerators or ice machines or anything like that, they had salt. So if you have food that perishes, you take it and you dip it in some brine, and you pickle it, or you brine it and hang it up, so you had salted pork, which is basically beef jerky and this type of thing. And that's how you preserve meats and different types of foods and vegetables that otherwise would perish. And you can have them for a long time. So in those days, you really almost couldn't build a city without salt. And beyond this, can we just agree that salt is so delicious, like anything that's supposed to have salt on it that doesn't, somehow becomes bland. Can you imagine fries losing their saltiness? Tortilla chips losing their saltiness? Never. We go to a Mexican restaurant, I will invite myself to be the salt-on-yeh, it's a sommelier that's into salt. I just invented that. Salt-on-yeh. And I will ask you if I can put some tortilla chips on our salt. Stupid joke. Anyway, salt is delicious. It makes sweet things taste better. That's why people are putting salt on cookies now. It seems crazy, its perfect. Salt also cleans things. We're kind of, not as familiar with that, but it's a cleanser. If you have a sore throat, maybe your mom gave you some warm water with some salt on it, you gurgled it and your sore throat went away because it kills the bacteria. Not always, but sometimes. And so for this and many other reasons, salt in the ancient world is very valuable, and it becomes a form of exchange. It becomes, everybody say your favorite word, money! Stop. All right, stop. Its valuable. And its money. Actually, the Roman Empire, Pliny the Elder tells us paid their soldiers in handfuls of salt. You get one hand of salt per day that you work. And that's why the word "soldier" comes from, in Latin, "sal." Anybody here speak Spanish? What does sal mean? Just add a "t" – salt. And dare – anybody – dare? To give. So "sal dare" is someone who gives salt, a soldier. Sal-dare. And I'm probably going too long. Hannah's not here so I have no one to flag me down and say just bring it back! This is where the expression "you're worth your salt" comes from. And it's also where the term "salary" comes from. So salt is this idea that it's not only delicious and its nourishing and it's the foundation for a growing people, and its cleansing, but its money, its valuable, it's precious in God's sight. And Jesus says you're the salt of the earth. Don't lose your saltiness. Don't lose your saltiness. And just think of that. All these hurting people who say I need help, I need to get out of a rut, I need some money, I need to pay my rent, I need help. Jesus turns the whole thing on their head as people are worrying about their own situation, He tells them you already have all that you need to be salt and light to someone else. And if all of us were salt and light to each other, everything would be different. And so He says to you, the best way to get on with your day to get a will to live is to get a will to love! And to be passionate about others. The best way to become the person you were born to be is to do it for someone else. You might hear a man say I rise above all of my hardships or depression or anxiety, I rise above to help other people get out of their ruts. You might hear someone say I go to meetings and I lead those meetings so that I stay sober. You might hear somebody say I'm a personal trainer so that I stay fit. And you might even hear a pastor say I'm a pastor so I'm forced to read the Bible. I recently heard someone say most pastors only read the.. some study that most pastors only read their Bibles once a week to prepare their sermons, and I thought well that's pretty good!

## You Are Not a Wallflower

I wish my church was full of people that read their Bible once a week. Once a day is great, but once a week is a start, isn't it. If the only reason you want to become a pastor is to be forced to read your Bible once a week, I think that's a good enough reason. If that's the reason you want to be a pastor, I want to encourage you, do it. That's a good reason. So you see there's things that we do in life that we understand the best way to learn something is to teach it. The best way to become something is to become it for a student; to become it for the people you're leading; to become it for your children or for your colleagues or your neighbors. And this is the secret sauce! This is why Hannah Schuller famously says the Bible is a cheat sheet to life. It is. When you recognize that you're salt and light, you get all the salt you need. When you recognize you're salt and light, you get all the light you need. When you recognize that you are the answer to someone else's prayer, you get the answer to your own prayer. That is the miracle of the kingdom of God. When we have our hands like this to fight or to hold on, you also have your hands like this so you can't receive anything. You just got to open your hands, and you got to open your heart. So salt and light, He says you're the light of the world. That's a powerful statement. If I asked you pastor Bobby to a congregant or a viewer of Hour of Power, who's the light of the world? You're almost for sure going to say Jesus, and you're right. But who does Jesus say the light of the world is? He says it's you. Whoa, hey now. That's a big compliment that God thinks you are the light of the world. He says don't hide your light under a bushel. What does that mean? Anybody here seen Aladdin before? Vaguely? Or you know who the Genie in the lamp is? Remember that lamp, that weird looking shape thing? This is an actual lamp. This is what He's talking about. These lamps you put oil in that hole in the top and then the other hole you have a wick, just like a candle, and it stays lit. And so typically at nighttime in your house, house is made of stone typically in the desert, and you'd have fifteen to twenty of these, maybe, around your house and the whole house would be illuminated. But the problem is, when you have to light one of these, it's a pain in the neck. If you've ever gone camping and you've tried to start a fire without matches or a lighter, it is a pain, and I have tried. And this is the problem – when they leave, they blow out all the lamps except one, because lighting a lamp.. I mean like doing this thing with the stick, or like flint, takes forever and it's a pain in the neck. So they leave one lamp on, and then they put this bushel over it, and I know it looks like that's going to start a fire, but it doesn't, or they can sometimes do a clay pot, and they leave it there so that if anything in the room or something falls on it or leaves get on it, it won't start a fire. So this protects it. And then she leaves the house and go visits her sister, and then they have dinner, and then they talk about the other sister, you know what I mean, oh she's been going on, and what mom has to say about that. And then she leaves her sister's house and comes home, and it's cold in the house, but she doesn't have to start a fire. She takes the bushel off the one lamp and uses that one lamp and she goes around and lights all the other lamps in the house, and maybe lights a fire. So what happens is this is an ancient light switch. She comes into the house, pitch dark, pull the bushel off, boom! The house is full of light. And this is the image Jesus is using for the people that He's talking to. He's like you are like this lamp, but you got the bushel on and it's dark in the world, and all you got to do is just take that bushel off and watch what it does to the people around you. Many of us, we don't see ourselves that way. We think we're just a lamp that's blown out, but He says no, you're already lit, you've already got all you need, you've got all you need to say. Just take the bushel off and see what God can do. As Jim Kok used to say, 90% is just showing up. Just show up and do what you can, and watch how much of a difference it will make in the lives of other people. So take the light off. You need light in your life? Be light to someone else. It's interesting, you turn the lightbulb on, the lightbulb gets the most light, doesn't it. The room gets some light, but the lightbulb gets the most. And that is the amazing thing, you said, when you really do lean into this idea, you just find that everything in your life gets lighter, better, more interesting, less boring. There's just something about choosing today I will be a light for my neighbor that it makes for me all the light, all the salt I need is there. Isn't that good news? God's got enough light and salt for you, and for your kids and your grandkids, and for your spouse and your friends, and He's got even more than that. And so when you decide to be salt and light forever, we're just overflowing. All right, I'm almost done. Hang in with me. Just a few things. Why, why so often when we're given an opportunity do we walk by the weeping man in the suit. Why do we ignore Ellen with the cat glasses when we have the opportunity and we regret it later. Why. Here's what it is. Seneca famously said we suffer more in imagination than in reality. We overthink. Just think, think, think, think, think, think and then the moment passes. We don't act. And here's the first thought that almost all of us are going to have when an opportunity to be sweet or kind to someone comes up. The first thought that many of us are going to have is it's a little weird.

## You Are Not a Wallflower

Am I right or am I wrong? It's a little weird. But someone who's suffering who's in pain is not going to experience it as weird, most of the time. And sometimes they will, and that's the rotten part, because most of the time they don't. And then we think well its weird, and then what if I say the wrong thing, or what if I make it awkward, don't worry about it. What if I fail, don't worry about it. But then you think, man, I'm kind of tired and it's the end of the day, and I really need to get back. I'm probably going to hit traffic on the way home. I'm kind of tired. And then we fall into someone else syndrome. Someone else will help them. But here's the weird thing – if when you're in the line in the grocery store you decide to pay for the person behind you or in front of you, or when you're at work and you notice that your colleague's having a rough day and you ask him why. Or when you're out and about at the mall or whatever it is that you're going, and you see someone that needs some help and you do something about it, you immediately become a bigger person, somehow. It's like imagine your life is like a fuzzleball or something, it just gets bigger. It just gets bigger. There's something weird. And even if you fail, but especially if you succeed, everything else in life gets better. The traffic gets better, your boss gets better, your work gets easier, you sleep better. This is a Bobby Schuller promise. This is a Bobby Schuller promise. This is what so many of us are missing and need right now is this. To just say who cares if it's weird. I'm just going to do it. God will challenge you this week, by the way. He's going to challenge you. And you're going to have a moment and you'll have about three seconds to make a decision and then the moment will pass. I'm preparing you because its coming. So who do we reach? Many of us, we think okay God's calling me to go to the other side of the world. No, God calls you to love your neighbor. Your neighbor. What's your neighbor? Your near dweller. I like to go with about 15-feet. Something like that. Imagine you have a 15-foot hula hoop that's like a laser hula hoop, and anywhere you go, anybody's inside your laser hula hoop, that's someone. You're like, well some people in that loop.. no, no everybody that goes into your hula hoop space of 15-feet, that's somebody you got to look for. It's called a near-dweller or a neighbor. For example, a woman might say, this is a real story, actually, a woman says 'I was feeling guilty and like I should go to an orphanage in Africa, and I just saw how hard it was in Africa and I should go there. And maybe some people should, but she said I was..' and then she realized but my kids need me, and their friends need me. So which is better? Jesus says to love our neighbor. So often we think oh it's going to fail, but what if it doesn't fail? What if you succeed? Here's another thing to think about. When you're living life with your 15-foot hula hoop, try and do it in a way that is unhurried and relaxed. It is very, very hard to love people if you're in a hurry and all stressed out. I heard somebody say this, and I had the exact same experience. I often ride my bike here to the church from my house. So there's a beautiful bike path, goes all along the river, and it goes all the way to my house. And it takes about 45-minutes or so to ride my bike from here to there, and there to there. Well one night, I forgot that I had promised Mrs. Schuller I would be home at a certain time and I had my bike and like I realized oh no, I'm running late. So I pedaled as hard as I could, and I was like I'm going to turn this 45-minutes into like 15/20 minutes. And I went as hard as I could, I was sweating, the sun was coming down, I was going as hard as I could, and going from regular speed to full speed, I cut off about 4 minutes. And I was like, my bike ride is one of my favorite things in the day. The birds are chirping on the water.. I didn't see anything. I was just like oh, I got to get there. And it was kind of a big lesson for me in life. How much time are we really saving on the freeway, the fast walking, the fast pace of go, go, go, go, go. How much time are we really saving? And the answer is not much. Almost always it's not much. But what is the cost? Almost always it's a lot. It's a lot. Adrenaline is up. You don't see people that are hurting. Anyone that gets in your way you have this phrase that comes in your head – fool, fool, fool, fool, fool. Right? Jesus says be careful when you start saying 'you fool' in your heart. But when you're hurried and someone in the grocery line is looking through their purse for their card, and you're in a hurry, what's going through your head? You fool. You fool. When you're at the airport and someone's taking too long, get their laptop out of their bag, and then they actually ask 'do I take my laptop out of my bag' and you say it's already out of your bag, just put it on the thing! What are you saying in your head? You're like you fool. You fool. You fool. That's what a hurry does. Hurry turns everybody into fools. They're a fool, she's a fool, she's a fool. How can you love people like that? And the answer is – you can't. So we got to slow down and relax. Here's another one. Everybody's got a love bank. This is a good one. I know it's a really cheesy statement, but if you want to make withdrawals from someone, you got to make deposits. And just like with real money, whenever you make a deposit, it's not as much as you think. And whenever you spend money, it's a lot more than you think. And some of us are in debt and behind on our payments, shall we say.

## You Are Not a Wallflower

So you might take some work to get back to zero, and that's okay. Everyone receives love differently. Not everybody loves the way you do. And just trying to discover how someone receives love is in and of itself a loving thing to do. Oh, and by the way, there are some people that don't want any of your love. There are some people like that. Some people don't like salt, and some people don't like light. They're called slugs and bats. Slugs don't like salt; bats don't like light. It's just how it is. And you say it shouldn't be that way! They should want love, they should want light, they should want salt. Slugs don't like salt, bats don't like light, it's how it is. Don't deal in should's and shouldn't's. It's how it is. You move on. Most of the world needs that stuff. And when you do it, you see their life changes, but your life changes, too. And that's the good news. You are salt and light. Take the cover off. You're not a wallflower. Not you. Let somebody else be a wallflower, it's not you. You're here to be salt and light to people who need it and I know you can do that today. Lord, we thank you and we love you. You are the salt and light in our lives. And when nobody else is around, we always know that we have the goodness of your grace and mercy, love and friendship that never fails. It's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

### BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.