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Hour of Power - 17.11.2024

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

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

HS: And welcome friends. Thank you for being here. And Jehovah-Shammah means the Lord is here. If God is here, His power is here. If He's here, His redemption is here. If He's here, His love is here. So, let's worship Him this morning. Thank you for being here. We love you.

BS: Let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, thank you so much for your friendship to us. Thank you, God, that whatever it is that we're going through, we thank you that you are with us; that you're for us, that you've got victory on the horizon. We just pray, God that we would leave here with a fresh vision and a full tank. We love every single person here and we're thankful for everyone. Lord, it's in Christ's 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 – 1. John 4,13-19 – Hannah Schuller

If faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, let's feed our faith this morning. Would you open your Bibles with me to 1st John 4:13. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

INTERVIEW - Joel (JS) & Luke Smallbone (LS) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Joel and Luke Smallbone are brothers who make up the Christian pop duo for KING + COUNTRY. They grew up in a musical family, often singing background vocals for their sister, Rebecca St. James, as well as other artists. They've been writing and performing together as for KING + COUNTRY since 2009. Their newest project, a film called *Unsung Hero*, chronicles their family's journey from Australia to the United States in hopes to rebuild their life.

BS: Hey, Luke and Joel, hi, welcome, we're so glad to see you guys. Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule for this interview.

JS: We are tucked away in a dressing room underneath the country music hall of fame in Nashville talking to you, Bobby. I wish we were in Orange County, but here we are.

BS: That is awesome. We want to talk about your new movie *Unsung Hero*, but before we do that, tell us a little bit; most people know your music, but tell us a little bit about your faith journey and sort of how your music has been a part of that.

JS: In Australia, and our dad was a concert promoter in Australia, and so we grew up in and around music kind of our entire life. Some of our earliest memories are actually listening to old Striper records and going to Striper concerts or White Hot or Common or Amy Grant. And so our dad was a concert promoter for many years, and then on one particular tour that he brought back, the tour didn't go very well and we ended up losing everything that we had as a family. We lost the house, the car and the life savings. So dad wanted to see, hey, I'm at the lowest of the low right now, are there any other opportunities? And he got a job offer in Nashville, Tennessee and he thought it would be a good idea to move his six kids and his wife, who was six months pregnant at the time, and as soon as we arrived here in Nashville, my dad actually lost that job.

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We were sleeping on beds made out of clothes, weren't always quite sure where the next meal was going to come from, didn't have any way for our little sister to be born in a hospital, didn't have a car. And so man, we struggled as a family coming here, and our kind of faith journey actually starts there. Our oldest sister actually is an artist by the name of Rebecca St. James, and so our career..

JS: Yes, I think there's a picture on the Internet floating around with you and our sister.

BS: Yes, that's fun..

LS: About eight years ago.

BS: Yes that's right, yes, at the Crystal Cathedral.

LS: Yes. That's right! So anyway, we started doing background vocals and we were stage managing and running lights and doing all sorts of different things during that time. And that is kind of how we.. you were a pastors son, we are kind of..

JS: Musicians..

LS: ..yes, musicians, our father's..

JS: Fathers and sons..

LS: ..we were raised up in music.

BS: I love that story, and it's amazing to me how often you see the success stories of, whatever it is, people in business or musicians, they just lose everything, and then very often they just come right back. But it certainly doesn't feel that way when you're at the bottom, where you're at the lowest of the low. And that's what this movie's about, right? *Unsung Hero*?

So Joel, I read here that you starred as your dad in the movie. What was that experience like for you, like pretending to be your dad?

JS: Bobby I've dubbed it a very expensive therapy session to start, but a worthy one. Look, Luke and I were very young when we moved, but we did see miracles. To us, it was sort of this great adventure, and so that's what we've really aimed to depict in this film. It's a movie that celebrates moms, it's a movie about miracles, it's a movie about music, it's a 90's film, and it does chronicle out our sister's sort of rise into music.

But yes, Luke produced it, I co-directed it and co-wrote the script with Richard Ramsey, and then I hopped in front of the camera to play our dad. And really the heartbeat of the film is summed up right at the end, and that is the statement that Mother Teresa made, and as it reads, if you want to change the world, go home and love your family. And so we're excited, man, to put family in thousands of theaters for what we're calling family day, and it also, Bobby, fun fact, speaking of family, it also happens to be our parents 49th wedding anniversary that day, so a lot going on in the *Smallbone* household this week.

BS: Wow, great. We have a trailer for the movie. Let's take a look.

(VIDEO CLIP)

Helen Smallbone: Okay, stay close. Let's go.

Jeb Albright: How are y'all doing?

Kay Albright: Are y'all from England?

David Smallbone: Australia.

Jeb: Australia. Wish I had an accent.

Rebecca Smallbone: Dad, I wrote a song. Thought maybe we could ask for an audition.

David: Oh, that's great, honey. Let's take it one step at a time.

David: Kay tells me you're a promoter. Do you know someone looking for one?

Jeb: Well, I may know somebody who should be.

Helen: She's been given a beautiful voice.

Ellie: It's a miracle.

Grandpa James: She's a special one, son. Your family, they're not in the way. They are the way.

Helen: There's no food. We're almost out of money. We need to make some changes. Kids, we need your help. This is everything we have, and sometimes it's going to grow and sometimes it will shrink, but it cannot be allowed to disappear.

Rebecca: I wonder if he's right. Maybe I'm not meant to sing.

Helen: Or maybe you're not meant to sing other people's songs.

Helen: It's going to be dangerous and scary. And giving up, giving in, it's not an option.

Helen: Whatever your dream is, I know you can achieve it.

Joel: Please welcome my big sister--

Rebecca: My dream is to be like you. It always has been.

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(END OF VIDEO CLIP)

BS: Wow, it looks great. Luke, you were behind the camera and you served as a producer for this project. What was it like kind of like telling your story and working with your brother sort of in this medium, as well?

LS: Well Joel's my older brother, so I loved being his boss, I'll tell you that much. No, I'm just kidding. No, look, I believe in the power of family. I think family is more important today than it ever has been in the history of the world, but we don't necessarily value it as much as we should, so one of the hopes for us was to... our family's story, we are not a perfect family.

I joke that our family is a functionally dysfunctional family, which I think is as good as it can get. We have a wonderful family, but family is messy. Family is complicated, and my hope is that when people watch the film, is that they will leave kind of looking at their families. I hope father's go back to their homes and say hey, what would it look like if I become a better father. Hopefully mother's see themselves and realize that the invisible work that they are doing that nobody sees, it changes generations, it changes the world. Hope that brothers and sisters say hey, I have a role to play in my family. What does it look like if I contribute, I belong in my family. What if I really infuse a lot in my family and focus on who we are as a family.

And so it was a wonderful experience. It's the biggest project we've ever done. If you want stress, make a movie. All right? But it's been an adventure, to say the least.

BS: Well for all of you watching on television, I want to encourage you, if you want to do something fun this weekend, go out to the movies and see *Unsung Hero*. It's out in theaters now. Luke and Joel Smallbone, thank you guys so much! God bless you. Appreciate you.

LS: Hey man, thanks.

JS: Thank you for having us, Bobby, we'll see you in the cinemas this weekend, and not only will you see us, but you'll also see Candace Cameron Bure, you'll see John Locke from *Lost*.

LS: That's right.

JS: ..Terry O'Quinn, Lucas Black from *Fast and Furious*, so it's quite a lovely ensemble, and you can go to, I'm told, unsunghero.movie to grab your tickets, as well. So thanks for having us, man, and we'll see you down the road.

BS: Love you guys. *Unsung Hero* in theaters now. Thanks guys. Appreciate you.

BOTH: Appreciate you, man. All the best.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

BS: All right, no matter who you are, we like to just remind ourselves of the gospel. Would you stand with us? Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving this gift 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. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry. I don't have to hurry. I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Thanks, you can be seated.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – Bobby Schuller: The #1 Secret to Overcoming Fear

Let's talk about the biggest way to overcome fear. In short, its love, and I know that sounds like the most Care Bear explanation ever, but hopefully it will make sense to you here in a minute. There's a guy from Kentucky, a colonel, who at one time had the recipe to the world's greatest fried chicken. Colonel Sanders! I love this story. Colonel Sanders years ago in his mid 60's, got his first social security check, and he was looking at retirement. And he opened that check and it was for \$107. And here's what Colonel Sanders said to himself – I don't want to limit my life to this little check. I refuse. And so what he did is he took what he was passionate about, he took what he was in to, and he decided to see if that could be a business, and it was, and he created, what is it, 11 herbs and spices? Is it 11? I can't ever remember the number. Seven? It's some important number, but it's secret. And anyway, he got those herbs and spices right, and created Kentucky Fried Chicken. And he was, I think 62 years old. Ten years later at the age of 72, he sold Kentucky Fried Chicken in 1962 for two million dollars. Now I know today that sounds like a lot of money, but factored for inflation, that'd be the equivalent of almost twenty million dollars today. And he did that in ten years. Now this is not about money, but about a person deciding that just because I'm retired, doesn't mean I'm done. Just because I'm old, doesn't mean I have nothing to offer. In fact, in our world today, I think we're obsessed with youth, and we've forgotten what the ancients taught us, and that is that the older we get, the more experiences we have; the more wisdom that happens, the more we have to offer the world, especially today.

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Interestingly enough, the famous Colonel Sanders continued to be the spokesman for that business, got paid for it, and ended up becoming a Christian. He became good friends with Billy Graham and was baptized in the Jordan River. Isn't that nice? Anyway, my point is this: don't limit your life to anything. Colonel Sanders refused to have his life limited by age to say, especially back then in the 1950's; going into your 60's was a lot older back then. Getting old ain't what it used to be. Sounds like something Yogi Berra would say. The future ain't what it used to be. No but don't limit your life on age. Don't limit your life because you have a disability. Don't limit your life because you're too young. Don't limit your life because of your lack of education. Don't limit your life in God because you messed up your credit. Don't limit your life in God because of your past. Trust that your life still has limitless possibilities and fall in love with that today. And that's my ask for you is you're going to overcome your fear of aging, your fear of not having enough money, your fear of so many things by falling in love and by being passionate about what's possible in your life. That brings us to the scripture today. It's interesting, I used to do sermon series, there's nothing wrong with that, but for years now I follow the Presbyterian Lectionary to pick my Bible verse for each Sunday so that I don't just preach on what I want to preach on. But I got one of my favorites today and I'm excited about that. You've probably heard it today. 1st John chapter 4, verse 14. "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the son of God, God lives in them and they live in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement. In this world, we're like Jesus, there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us." Amen. Apparently, there are two lives you can lead. You can lead one life led by fear, and you can lead another life led by love. Two paths laid before every person. Here's what a life led by fear looks like. A constant and incessant need for whatever is safe and secure. A constant worry about what's going to happen tomorrow or the coming week. A life led by fear looks like pushing people away. A life led by fear looks like being offended all the time. A life led by fear is a shrinking life. A life led by fear is where you find yourself saying no or saying nothing at all more and more. But here's what a life led by love looks like, a life where you love God, where you love your country, where you love your neighbor, where you love your opportunities. It's a life that's driven by care. It's a life that's full of oftentimes risk. Why? Because you love the thing you're taking a risk for. It's led by courage. It's full of enjoyable work! Everybody say enjoyable work. (AUDIENCE: enjoyable work) Now this one I'm going to make a case for in the second half of the sermon so hang on. Enjoyable work is a part of God's plan for you. Not just work, enjoyable work. Okay. So fear and love are opposites and they both direct a life. So before we talk about how perfect love casts out fear, let's talk about the opposite what Dallas Willard said: perfect fear casts out love. Did you know that? A man is walking to the tool shop, he's minding his own business, going to get a tool, thinking about working on something, and a dog in a car nearby barks at him. Scares the heck out of him. So the man rears up and looks at the dog and he says 'I'll kill you! I'll kill you! I'll kill you!' Right? Now does the man hate the dog? You might say so, but what really happened is he just got spooked. Very often, when we get spooked, when we get scared, when we look afraid, it looks like hate, but it's not hate, it's just fear. He's afraid of the dog. Dog can't get him, he's in a car. Here's another example. Today, many good Americans are afraid of what the other party will do to their country. So fear casts out love. Two guys who have no idea they're on opposite sides of a political aisle, are having a grand old time, they just met each other, having a great conversation, all of a sudden politics comes up. And WHOOSH a wall goes up. Perfect fear casts out love. A crisis today in parenting, more than ever, parents have been smothering their children, even their adult children. Parents are so afraid of what could happen to their kids that they manage everything in their lives, they constantly save them, they bail them out, and they never allow their children to lead their own lives. And then later on in life, the kids are full of anxiety because they've never done it themselves, and ironically they begin to resent their parents, and the parents don't know why. And here you can see that perfect fear has cast out love. Or, spouses today. I think the biggest fear of every spouse, and it is a fear, is being controlled. And don't look at your spouse and elbow them. Just keep looking straight ahead. But for men and women, I think spouses are afraid of being controlled. And if they don't have that fear, they might have the fear of being abandoned, and so they do the controlling, you see. And so what happens then is because of this fear of abandonment or fear of control, what used to be a really intimate, friendly, good relationship when you got married is now you feel like this person's your roommate, or business partner.

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Or you just grown cold. You don't even like them anymore. And so you can see that perfect fear has cast out love. And we can have many other examples, but again, perfect fear, fear casts out love. It casts out love. It makes it hard for us to care for one another, and to love each other. But here's the other thing we know, and this is what the word of God says: perfect love casts out fear. And what I want you want to see in this passage is the phrase "casts out." Now some of you, you've been going to church your whole lives. When you read the Bible, and you hear the phrase "casts out," when you cast out something, what do you think of in the Bible? I know what I think. I think of an evil spirit. How Jesus casts out demons or evil spirits. It's the phrase of it is cast it out. And what I noticed is that when Jesus encounters a demoniac, a man possessed by a demon, the demon is afraid but it doesn't leave on its own. It begs Jesus to give him a break, it acknowledges that Jesus is there. It shows that it's terrified of Jesus, but it still stays within the host. Jesus has to do what? Has to cast it out. Has to order the thing to go. And this is the same phrase that He uses here, that what love does is it gives us an authority over fear, it doesn't just make fear go away, but it gives us a choice where we say I'm going to cast this thing aside. Why? Because I love this thing. I love this thing, I'm going to cast it out. Here's what love does, and here's how it gets rid of fear. It says I love this thing, this person, this whatever too much that I'm going to allow or let it be torn apart by this other thing, and so fear is cast out. I love my relationship too much to just let it happen. I love my business too much, I love my city, my country, my friends, my church, my God. I love it too much to just let it fall apart; to just let it go away, to let it die on the vine. And so what we find is that there's more love in your life for things, more passion for the things you care about, you're going to have less fear in your life. Here's a true statement: all women are afraid of bears. Unless those women are mothers and they have a five-year-old son who's approaching the bear to pet him. You see? See now the love of the mother.. all people, you know, there's some crazy guys out there, but all people would be afraid of a wild bear, but when a mother sees her son going to pet the bear, the fear of the bear is cast out, you see? Why? Because she loves her son. Perfect love casts out fear. Here's another statement: all men are afraid of gunfire coming at them. Except for soldiers who love their country or their comrades in arms, or honor, or whatever it is, that they're willing to go in the direction of the gunfire. Why? Because of love. Love casts out fear. They still feel afraid, but they cast it away. They cast it aside because of love. And we could go on and on. In fact, I think the best example is Christ. We see, now this is just me, the Bible doesn't say this, it seems to me that in Gethsemane, in the Garden of Gethsemane before Christ is arrested, that He does seem afraid of being crucified. He's praying, He's sweating blood, He's saying to God take this cup away from me, but not my will but yours be done. And so I think what's happening there is the Son is wrestling with the Father to make sure this is the only way, because He knows how horrible this is going to be. But once Jesus finishes that evening of prayer, and it's confirmed in His heart that He's going to be crucified, it seems that after that in the story, He's not afraid anymore. He's suffering, He's in pain, but He doesn't seem to me to be afraid. Why? Because His love for you and for me has cast out His fear of the cross, and now He's laying His life down. And in so many other ways, we can see that love casts out fear. So just love people. If you want less fear in your life, just love life. Love people. Love the things you're doing. Fall in love with people. Care about people. And part of that means let go of your judgement. Let go of blame. Don't blame the systems and the government, don't blame your parents, don't blame your neighbors, don't blame whoever, just let go of that. Forgive people. Forgive yourself. Let go of your shame. Let go of your guilt. Let go of bitterness you feel. Yes, you've been harmed, you've been hurt, but you can forgive, you can let it go and you can love people. Just live a life full of love for people and you'll watch how fear diminishes in your life. Live a life driven by love, not fear. Amen? You know what love does, is it causes us to take action. You love a gal, you want her phone number. You love a band, you want to go see them play. You love your sick friend, you go visit them in the hospital. You love life, you love God, you're just going to find that your life is going to be full of action. You're going to take action. And when you take action, your worry goes down. Notice how when you love, you're almost always the first, the first. Whoever loves the most is the first. The first to say sorry. Every time you get in a fight with your spouse, you know that you're going to make up, but you never want to be the first to say you're sorry. You kind of want them to do it first, because it's your fault, but it's kind of a little bit more their fault, right? We all feel that way. Be the first to say you're sorry, even if it's only ten percent your fault and 90% theirs, be the first. That's what love does. Love is the first to invite. Love is the first to speak up in defense. Love is the first to kiss. Ever tell you about how I kissed Hannah? How I kissed Mrs. Schuller the first time? She wasn't Mrs. Schuller at the time when I kissed her, thank goodness. That would have been a dry spell, to say the least.

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She was Miss Presley at the time, and we'd been dating a couple weeks and it was night and I'm walking to her door, and I said to her 'you know, my older sister.. I said you look so beautiful, my older sister said if you really like a girl, go as long as possible without kissing her.' And Hannah looks right in my eyes, she goes 'well why?' And I said 'I don't know.' And so I kissed her, and it was a terrible kiss because I did it so fast our teeth clanked. But you know, I wanted to get it done. So I loved her. Takes action. You love a person, you take action. So the more love in your life, the less fear because love leads you to action, it leads you to take action, to do. You love the game, you get in it and you play. And the more you do that, the less you have of a worry and anxiety in your life. Here's what worry is: worry is dread without a decision. Here's what worry is: worry is concern without taking action. Just spinning your wheels. So when you love, you take action. So here's the key point – love and fear actually have everything to do with your calling and with meaningful work. I'll make this argument now. We're in the second half of the sermon, aren't you excited? We're almost there. Who's heard this before? Something like if you love what you do, you'll never have to work a day in your life. It was either Mark Twain or Samuel Clemons, I can't remember. Same guy! Any lit friends? All right, no, okay, never mind. How many of you have heard this advice: follow your passion! This is how you do well – you follow your passion! And you'll hear that. Brad Pitt, how do I become a great actor? You follow your passion. Angelina Jolie, how do you become a famous actress? You got to follow your passion. Notice, she doesn't say be Jon Voight's daughter and be the second most beautiful woman on planet earth. Its follow your passion. So that's partly true. That's partly true. Right? That's partly true. But maybe you're here today and you say well pastor Bobby, I don't have a passion. I don't have a passion. I love my kids, I love my family, whatever, I don't have a passion, or maybe even worse, you say I don't have a passion anymore, like you lost your passion. A lot of pastors today have lost their passion. When they got in the ministry, they were street preachers where they were just serving the poor. They went to seminary excited and they didn't think about that they're going to have to do budgets and pay another mortgage, and be criticized, or go to board meetings. And so the more they deal with that, they just find that the passion just WOOF. Many artists, entrepreneurs, same thing. You start a business, you think you're going to have this great product, great adventure, and it's just late nights and never enough cash. And so what is that? What's happening there? If they're following their passion, why aren't they so passionate anymore? And that leads us to a great book by Cal Newport. It's a little bit older book. It's called So Good They Can't Ignore You. Highly recommend it. Cal Newport, before he became a computer science professor, wanted to answer this question. What is it about people being passionate about their work, and how do they stay passionate? And here's what he found out is that people who had a passion for their job didn't originally have a passion for it. Isn't that interesting? They just had a mild interest in the thing, and over time, they found that as they developed a passion, as they got really good! Maybe you've experienced this before. He cites a study from Yale by Amy Raznesky, where she studied many cases where people either called it a job or a calling. And she wanted to be like what's the difference between what people call a job and when people call it a calling, and here's what they found. The three biggest things, and listen up if you're a leader, if you're an employer, this is going to help you. The three biggest things that came out for people that said it was a calling, not a job, was one: they had some creativity in the job. Two: that they had some sense of control, like not that they were the boss, but they had something to do with the outcome. They could make some independent decisions. They had some freedom in the projects that they were doing. And three, most importantly, that they felt like they were making an impact. So one more time: creativity, control, and impact. And what Newport found out was that there were actually two types of people. There were people who came into the job with a passion mindset, and there were people who came in to the job with what he called a craftsman mindset. And the irony is that the people who came in with a passion mindset lost their passion, and the people with a craftsman mindset developed a passion. These two different comparisons. Passion mindset says something like this: how do I feel at my job? What's it like going to my job? Are the people nice to me? Is the snack bar good, I don't know. The craftsman person, though, doesn't go into the job saying.. see a passion mindset says what can the world give me? What can my job give me? What can this experience give me? But a craftsman mindset goes into the job saying what kind of impact can I make in this company or this ministry or this school or this organization. It says something like how can I improve myself? The craftsman mindset is all about developing skills, having deliberate practice. And people who have this craftsman mindset are more likely to take on the kind of niche challenges and projects that doesn't really fit any particular person in the company.

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They're more likely to take that on as a challenge, and then develop a niche expertise, and then guess what – they're passionate about it, right? And then they get paid more, and they love it more, and they have more control, etc., etc. And so all of that to say, the irony is that follow your passion comes after you get good at something. Not before. So yes, once you're passionate about it, then it's fun. You don't have to work a day in your life. But first you have to have a craftsman mindset. Right? What an irony. What an irony. And here's my point – if you want to have a more passionate life, a life full of loving your job, loving what you're doing, loving your experiences, you grow your passion by improving yourself. That's how you get passionate about something. Don't say what am I passionate about, say I want some passion, and I know how to get it now. I get it by improving myself. I get it by developing skills. Let's go deeper. You want more passion in your marriage? Don't raise your hand if you want more passion in your marriage. If you want more passion in your marriage, if you want more passion in your marriage, improve your spouse skills. That's a thing. I think when I first got married, I wasn't very high on the husband skills list. I thought I was, but I wasn't. I've since learned a lot of things about being a husband. Men who are married here today, how many times have you sat down and had a meaningful conversation with your wife and just asked how her day is going, or what her dreams are, and if you say not very often, that's an F! Fail! You're failing. You've got a skill to learn. Okay? Being a husband is a skill. Being a wife is skill, as well. And men and women receive and experience love in different ways. How many women here know that, other than probably the number one thing you're thinking of, the number two thing, which is almost equal for men, is extracurricular things. Doing fun things. Going to a ballgame or a concert or a movie. Okay. So these are things you can learn from books, or from whatever, by just simply asking the question I will be more passionate in my marriage if I develop my husband or wife skills. I'll be more passionate about being a parent if I develop my parent skills. How many of you, dads especially, have told your kids you love them. You say oh they already know. Tell them. You say oh my son is 50 years old, it would be weird. Tell him. You never told him before? Tell him. Have you ever told your daughter she's beautiful? Tell her. You say oh that would be weird. Tell her. You say she's 50, she's 40; tell her. See these are skills we learn in life, and you watch, that father tells his 40, 50, 60-year-old daughter she's beautiful, she's going to tear up and say thanks dad, it's going to mean a lot to her, and then all of a sudden what's he going to feel about being a father? The word is passionate. Developing his father skills. You want more passion in your relationships, you develop your relational skills. You want more passion for your church, you develop your congregation skills through volunteering and singing and greeting. You want to develop your love for music? Learn the instrument in the music. You want to develop your writing? Develop your writing skills. You want to grow in your passion for people? Develop your people skills. You want to grow in your passion for life? Grow your life skills and you'll just become more passionate, amen? So passion is the result of developing. It's becoming. So apply the craftsman mentality to every aspect of life. Just watch how your life just gets so much better. Just takes off. Some of you, you need more money. I remember once, I asked the church to pray Dallas Willard's prayer: Lord, don't give me more money than my character can handle. And I had everybody say it.. three times I had the church say it, and the best I could get was like give me more money. Okay? All right, you want more money, here's how you get more money – you understand that the marketplace pays people for value, not work. For value, not hours. The more you increase your value to the marketplace, the more money you'll make. Right now, a fry cook, noble job, it's a good job; I've worked in restaurants. Fry cook, well now they make \$20 an hour, if you work at McDonald's. Or they used to get \$20 an hour. I was at Taco Bell yesterday, and a robot took my order. I'm not even kidding. "Welcome to Taco Bell. May I take your order?" Got my order right, though, which was impressive. But the fry cook, let's say, makes \$15 to \$20 an hour. The attorney makes \$500 an hour. Both of them are working one hour, one gets whatever that is, a lot more per hour than the other. Why? Because the attorney has a certain skill set that the fry cook doesn't. If the fry cook wants \$500 an hour, he can become an attorney or many other things. Okay. So we're not paid for our hours. We're paid for our skills. Two lumberjacks are out cutting, and they've been working together for years, and every day these two guys, the one guy has way more wood than the other guy and the only difference is the guy that has more wood, takes a break for an hour, seems like, every day. Finally, one day the other lumberjack asks him, he says you always have twice as much wood as I do and you still work one hour less than I do. How do you have twice as much, but you work an hour less? And here's what he says: during that hour, I go and I sharpen my ax. I sharpen my ax. Sharpen your ax. Sharpen your ax. Takes an hour a day. Sharpen your ax and everything gets better.

The #1 Secret to Overcoming Fear

I still remember the first time I had a sense of financial security in your life. You'll probably laugh at this. We were planting our church, and we were going to have no income at all, and we had a baby on the way. And I remember walking through Nordstrom, and forgive me for being prideful, but I was listening to the Nordstrom piano player, and I thought to myself, I'm better than that guy. And I said worse comes to worse, I can steal that guys job. Did that happen? No. But notice how when you develop skills, you have these conversations with yourself where you're like I can play piano and make some money. Maybe not. I don't know. So the more you work on yourself, the less fear you have in your life. Yes. Okay. Last idea, the famous quote by the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus: "character is fate." Character is fate. What does that mean? Now when we hear character, we think morals and it is, but it's more than that. Its values and beliefs, and it is, but it's more than that. It's who you are. It's your skills, it's your ideas, it's where you're going, it's your vision, it's your relationships, but most importantly, it's your soul. It's who you are as a person. That is your character. And who you are is your fate. Your future is decided by the person you become. The future comes to you. Sorry. The future does not come to you, the future comes from you. The future comes from you. From who you are, and if you want a different future, you become a different person. The late great Jim Rohn used to say this. He said I used to think I'll scratch your back, you scratch mine. But as I got older, I learned no, no, this is what's better. I'll work on me for you, if you work on you for me. You see? No more judging people. Our world needs to just mind its own biscuits and mend its own fences, amen? We need to just mind our own biscuits and life will be gravy, as the song goes. Here's what we focus on: don't focus on what everybody else should do, you focus on yourself. On becoming a person who's persistently adding value to the world, and just watch as that love for other people, that love, it just evaporates fear in your life, as you develop as a person. Amen? All right, final thought – I want to encourage you today, many of you are here and you still feel like there's nothing left for you. You had a horrible mess up in your job, maybe you committed a crime, maybe you've totally destroyed your credit, maybe you failed morally, maybe you've been divorced a bunch of times, whatever, you've got some thing that there's maybe people hanging over your head, some failure in your past, and you just think it's over, and I just want to encourage you, we serve a God of do-overs. He loves do-overs. He loves it. Seventy-seventy times seven times seven, God will forgive us. You think I'm not a good parent, I'm not a good this, I'm not a good that, start over today. Start over today. Believe in the God of do-overs. And most of all, if you never known Christ, if you've never been a believer, become a Christian today. Just decide right where you are to trust that Christ was crucified for you for every sin, every mistake, and was raised from the dead that you could receive eternal life now. I want to encourage you to do that today, and you will be, the Bible says, justified. Justified. In Oklahoma, there was a preacher who used to say, "just as if I'd never done it." That's what justified means. Just as if I'd never done it. Now if you say that fast enough, it sounds like justified: just if I'd never done it. See, and that's true for you. Amen. And if you make that decision today, text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen. All right, let's pray! Stand with me. We're going to stand and confess this together. Today is a new day. All things are possible for every person in this room. It's possible, so Lord, we lift up our voices and our eyes and our hearts to you, and we say we trust you with our lives. We thank you, that we are alive in your kingdom right now for a reason. Lord, I pray that hope, that fresh ideas, that creativity, that everything anew and possible would come into the mind of the person listening to my voice now. They get a fresh vision for their life, Lord, that they get new opportunity. Lord, they'd see the doors that are open in their life. That they'd walk through the doors, that they'd take advantage of what you've set before them, that you'd forgive them, renew them, restore them. Lord, we confess today that you are the Lord of our lives, and anything is possible for you. You can overcome any disability, any sickness, any failure, any setback. We trust, God, that you can do it, that you have done it, and we thank you in advance, and it's in the name of Jesus 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.