

HOUR OF POWER OF 16.03.2008

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning. I want to encourage you right now to reach out and shake the hands of those who are standing next to you and behind you and say God loves you and so do I.

So we're going to continue to worship the Lord with a moment of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are real; that You are here, that You are touching hearts and minds with Your power and with Your presence. And so as we stand in awe of You this morning, we know that there is nothing that is too big for You. So tear down the walls, oh Lord, that prevent us from receiving the beauty and the glory of Your power and Your love for us this very moment. We love You Lord, Amen.

HYMN - "Have Faith in God/'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Have faith in God, my heart, trust and be unafraid; God will fulfill in every part each promise He has made.

Have faith in God, my mind, even though the light burns low, God's mercy holds a wiser plan than you can fully know.

Lord Jesus, make me whole; Grant me Your resting place. I give my all, heart, mind and soul, completely to Your grace.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word, just to rest upon His promise, just to know "Thus says the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Oh how sweet to trust in Jesus, for His love will never cease; And in simple faith He gives me life and rest and joy and peace!

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses from Psalm 89 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. Now hear these words, hear these words from the Holy Scriptures from Psalm 89:

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations. O Lord God, who is mighty like You. You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them. The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them. You have a mighty arm; strong is Your hand, and high is Your right arm. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face. Blessed are we who know the joyful sound. We walk, oh Lord, in the light of Your countenance. In Your name we rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness, we are exalted.

This is the word of the Lord.

SOLO – HAYLEY WESTENRA - "Abide with Me"

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies. Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

RHS "Thank you so much"

RHS: Thank you so much.

ANTHEM – "It is Well with My Soul"

When peace like a river attends my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, You have taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul. It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Oh Lord, now the joy of this glorious thought, my sin, not in part, but the whole is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul! It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, bring the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul! It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul. It is well.

INTERVIEW – MATTHEW WEST

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER MW: MATTHEW WEST

RHS: Well, my guest this morning is a fabulous singer. I had the joy and honor of sitting right next to him so I could hear him sing those hymns. He comes from a wonderful Christian family. His father is a devoted pastor and he's been here before. Back in 2003, he burst into the Christian music scene out of nowhere with his single "More!" the most frequently played song on Christian radio. His name is Matthew, Matthew West and he's here to share how God has miraculously intervened in his life and its been going on for the good and the glory of God. Welcome with me Matthew West. Hi Matthew.

MW: Hi.

RHS: Your musical ministry has impacted the lives of many, many people who have instrumental, but who intervened in your life and brought forth the talent that God gave you?

MW: Well you mentioned my parents. My father's been a minister at the same church for over 33 years.

RHS: Pretty good.

MW: And.. yes very good. I have tremendous respect for my mom and dad and I'm so thankful for the upbringing that I had. Ironically though, being in church every Sunday, every day of the week, really, you know as the preacher's kid, you

get a lot of the extra duties, so I was mowing the lawn and you name it. And ironically, it was as a 13-year-old boy watching television that I stumbled upon a Billy Graham crusade..

RHS: Oh..

MT: ..and that was where I made my commitment to Christ. My mom saw me and she knew that God was at work in my heart and she sat down and prayed with me and so I'm so thankful for my parents and the influence that they've had on my life. You know they brought me here to this church as a child and said..

RHS: They did?

MT: ..you've got to see the Crystal Cathedral.

RHS: Many years ago?

MT: Many years ago, so it's such a thrill to be standing here with you today.

RHS: Thank you, thank you. And your dad has been 32 years in the church?

MW: Yeah, almost 33 now.

RHS: I've been here 52 so he's got 20 to go.

MW: You've got him beat. I'll make sure he knows.

RHS: You've had a couple of miracles, that's the way I put it. Correct me if I'm exaggerating, but tell us about..

MW: Well..

RHS: ..two at least.

MW: ..yes, my music career, nothing has come without struggle and it seems as if the moment I began planning my plans and dreaming my dreams and set out on the course that I think God has planned for me and maybe many of you can relate, that's about the time everything changes. And so I've been just right on the edge of seeing some dreams come true in my life. In 2002 I was two weeks away from signing my name onto a record deal. Now that was a dream for me. And two weeks away from that happening, I had a crazy injury trying to open a window at my home. My left arm slipped and it fell through the glass. The glass severed an artery in my left arm. Well I play the guitar folks, and that was bad news. I landed in the hospital for five days and the doctors did surgery after surgery, just to restore a pulse in my left hand. And when they sent me home from the hospital, they let me know that I would always have a scar that runs down the length of my arm, more importantly, my left hand would always be weak and numb and I may never play the guitar again. And how many of you know God is good, and He healed my hand and I'm once again able to pick up a guitar.

Fast forward into 2007; I was back on track, making music. I was getting ready to make a new album called "Something to Say." I felt like God had put this message on my heart and that's about the time I went to the doctors office in April of this past year, and the doctor looked at my vocal chords and told me I had nothing to say. And I found out I needed to have surgery on my vocal chords. So here I was, facing just a recently recovered hand and now my voice was being challenged. And so on May 17th instead of walking into the doors of a recording studio to make an album called "Something to Say," I was being wheeled in for surgery on my voice and the doctors told me I would have nothing to say. So it was quite an intense trial in my life. I had to spend about two months in complete silence. I was unable to speak to my wife, unable to sing to my little two-year-old girl. I remember she'd look at me like what's wrong daddy, why aren't you talking to me? Why aren't you singing? But through that experience, God proved Himself faithful and I'm here today speaking to you as a testament that God has healed my voice and I'm once again able to sing a new song for His glory.

RHS: Wow. What have you learned through all of this?

MT: Wow, well you know, I was standing in church one Sunday after my surgery, like I mentioned, I had to be completely silent. I used a dry erase board to communicate with my wife and my daughter and I have messy handwriting so that was a challenge. But one Sunday I was in church and I was standing there singing, just like we've all been doing this morning, and the church was singing, everybody except for me. And I was frustrated and I was discouraged. I was uncertain of my future, I was thinking Lord what if I can't do this thing that I feel like You've called me to do. What's going on here? I sat down and the sermon was called why does God allow bad things to happen to good people. I'm sure a question many of us have all asked. The pastor read a quote by C.S. Lewis that said this: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks in our conscience, but He shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

RHS: Boy that's good. Just repeat those words.

MW: He said, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, He speaks in our conscience but He shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

RHS: Fantastic.

MW: It really spoke to my heart because I started to think could it be that God wants to use not only our gifts and our abilities, but even our brokenness. Even our tragedies. Even the trials and the weakest moments of our lives. What if we lifted those up to God and allowed Him to give us something to say through our weakest moments. Lives could be changed for an eternity. And so that's what I hope to do as I'm now able to sing again, I hope that the world, when they hear me sing, it'll be so much more about me showcasing anything good in me but more about giving all the glory to God because He's the reason that I have anything to say at all. Amen?

RHS: You know I've been a pastor now since I started this church 52 years and I've always heard the question why would God allow bad things to happen to good people? Well there are a lot of reasons. One reason is really good people take all their bad things and turn them into good things for God's glory. And He needs all the glory He can get and He said I can use you. If this happens to you and you come back, people are going to listen to you. It'll impact your ministry and now you impact all of us. What song are you going to sing for us now?

MW: Well I'm going to sing a song from the new album; it's called "You are Everything." And this just a little back story, is the first song that I went back into the recording studio to sing, so I was nervous, I was scared, but I found a scripture that my dad had me memorize from a child, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." And this song is about the reality of even if you lost everything that you love in this life, as long as you hold onto your Savior, as long as you hold onto Jesus..

RHS: That's right..

MW: ..you have everything you need. You are everything.

RHS: Never lose the most important thing you have.

MW: Thank you.

RHS: Your faith. Sing for us.

SOLO – MATTHEW WEST – "You are Everything"

I'm the one with two left feet standing on a lonely street; I can't even walk a straight line. And every time you look at me I'm spinning like an autumn leaf, bound to hit the bottom sometime. Where would I be without someone to save me, someone who won't let me fall?

You are everything that I live for. Everything that I can't believe is happening. You're standing right in front of me with arms wide open. All I know is every day

is filled with hope 'cause You are everything that I breathe for and I can't help but breathe You in, and breathe again, feeling all this life within, every single beat of my heart.

I'm the one with big mistakes, big regrets and bigger breaks than I'd ever care to confess. Oh but You're the one who looks at me and sees what I was meant to be; More than just a beautiful mess. Oh and where would I be without someone to save me, someone who won't let me fall.

You are everything that I live for, everything that I can't believe is happening. You're standing right in front of me with arms wide open and all I know is every day is filled with hope 'cause You are everything that I breathe for and I can't help but breathe You in, and breathe again, feeling all this life within. Every single beat of my heart. You're everything good in my life, You're everything honest and true and all of those stars hanging up in the sky can never shine brighter than You.

You are everything that I live for, everything that I can't believe is happening. You're standing right in front of me with arms wide open. All I know is every day is filled with hope 'cause You are everything that I breathe for. And I can't help but breathe You in, and breathe again. Feeling all this life within every single beat of my heart. You are, oh, You are, Jesus, You are, You are everything.

RAS THANK YOU TO MATTHEW WEST

RAS: Matthew, Matthew, Matthew, thank you. Thank you for your music, your heart, for your spirit. If you don't want to do this, I understand. But I'm curious: would you roll up your sleeve, I'd love to see your scar.

MW: You want to see.. I'm proud to show you my scar.

RAS: I thought you might be.

MW: Yeah, absolutely.

RAS: Does anyone else want to see his scar or is it just me? Who wants to see his scar? Everyone wants to see the scar.

MW: Well this is the scar that runs down my..

RAS: Whoa, dude.

MW: Yeah.

RAS: Can you see that?

MW: Can you see that? Runs..

RAS: I don't know if you can see it but that's a major scar. That definitely wins.

MW: I tell you what, every time I look at it..

RAS: That's what I don't want.

MW: ..that's it and I'm reminded though that God healed me, so..

RAS: God healed.

MW: ..scars are not a bad thing.

RAS: Amen to that. Well you turned it into a star, that's for sure.

MW: Thank you so much.

RAS: We appreciate you, you're fabulous..

MW: Thank you.

RAS: ..and thank you very, very much..

MQW: Thank you all.

RAS: ..for your music, for your faith.

MW: Appreciate it.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Believe It! See It! Part 4"

RAS: Well I am in a unique period in my life where.. well it's going to last four months, actually. It started on November 19th when my youngest son turned 20. And as a result of that, all four of my children are in their 20's. My oldest is 29 and on March 30th she will turn 30, so for a period of four months I can say that every single one of my kids are in their 20's. And that will change, of course, in a few months. But as a result of that, what happens to me is I have a real affection for young people who are in their 20's. They remind me of my children, and so I have just a natural attraction and an affection for them. So when I hear of somebody like Heath Ledger who passes away suddenly, somebody who has just tremendous potential and a long, an expected life in front of them, it makes my heart ache. It really does because he could have been one of my.. that could have been one of my kids. And it seems like every few years somebody of that caliber passes away that reminds us how fragile life is. You don't have to go back very far and we remember Kurt Cobain and the way he just tragically disappeared. Before that Roberto Clemente and Janis Joplin, James Dean. That's just to mention a few. I could mention 20 more because life is fragile.

And the gospel of Jesus Christ is here to be able to revive a fragile life. And the message I have for you today is a message that is designed to help revive your soul and your spirit and your person and your faith. That's what it's about: revival. How many people here could survive a catastrophe in your business where you suddenly lost 95% of your income? What would that do to your business? You think you could survive a 95% loss in income? There are people today who are struggling with that. I have a very good friend of mine who is. But the beautiful message is this: that the message and the God we serve is a God of revival. Revival basically means to bring to life, it means to bring to health, means to restore. And so I've written an acrostic for revival that'll help us with our passage today, the acrostic is very simple: Recognize Jesus, encounter mercy, validate your faith, identify His touch, voice your belief and exhort the truth. Five. Our scripture this morning comes from Matthew 9, and I'm beginning with the reading of the 27th verse. As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him calling out, saying have mercy on us, Son of David! When Jesus had gone indoors, the blind men came to Him, and Jesus asked them, do you believe that I am able to do this? Yes Lord, they replied. Then He touched their eyes and said according to your faith will it be done to you. And their sight was restored and Jesus warned them sternly, see that no one knows about this. But they went out and they spread the news about Him all over the region. Two blind men recognized Jesus. They said Son of David! Now you have to realize that Son of David is synonymous with saying the Messiah! They recognized immediately that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah. That title is reserved for that, and everybody in the time of Christ would know that Son of David is synonymous with Messiah. They were the very first people to call out Son of David! Their eyes were opened before their sight was revived. They saw Jesus and knew who He was before anyone else did, before those who had sight could see what they saw.

The story of an atheist was taking a walk through the woods one day, it was a beautiful day and he was admiring the tall beautiful pine trees and he was admiring the river that flowed through and enjoying the smells of this day and as he walked along, he heard some rustling behind him and he turned around and charging him he sees this grizzly bear. And he took off running as fast as he can, which of course is to no avail, you can't outrun a grizzly bear. But he tries to

outrun him anyway and sure enough the grizzly catches up to him and just as he's about to swipe him with his claws, he cries out to God, oh God! And with that, time froze. And a light shone and he heard a voice. And the voice said you expect me to save you? You've never believed a day in your life. You've taught others that it was some other thing that created this world. And you expect Me to save you at this time? And the atheist thought to himself that would be quite hypocritical. And he said yes it would be very hypocritical for me to expect You to save me at this time but maybe You could just make the bear a Christian. And the voice said as you will. And with that the bear did not swipe him immediately. Instead he fell to his knees and he folded his paws and he said dear Lord, for the food I'm about to receive, I give You thanks.

The blind man could recognize who Jesus was. And the question I have for you is can you recognize who Jesus is? The Son of God, the Messiah, the one who comes to save the world, the one who comes to bring hope. He promised fulfillment. And the cry of these blind men was Lord have mercy upon us! Have mercy upon us. You know when we go about and we are quick to point the finger at other people, we see areas and means and ways to criticize and we can point the finger very quickly, but what happens when we point a finger at people? You all know, there's three fingers pointing right back at ourselves. And the facts are that every time we see sin and disgust and things that anger and frustrate us about other people, there's three times as much of that within our own souls and our hearts. So it becomes imperative for us at all times to erase our arrogance, and to call upon the name of Christ to have mercy upon us. And to open our eyes that we might see where we need His grace and where we need to grow spiritually today.

Jesus said according to your faith will it be done to you. Do you realize they didn't go and say Jesus restore our sight. They said Jesus have mercy on us because they recognized who He was, that there was something far more important than having vision and that's having God's grace, God's love.

A good friend of mine as I mentioned earlier, his business a year ago dropped dramatically by well over 95%. Six months ago he said I hardly have enough income to pay the utilities. But I believe in my business. It just so happens, he's probably in the toughest business there is in America today. It's not real estate, but its close. I think real estate would probably be second to the mortgage business. He said last month or actually six months ago I wrote only five million dollars worth of contracts. He says that's not even enough to pay the light bill, my percentage from that. And we've been praying for him every month as he's been struggling with this, he says I believe in my business. I believe enough where I am ready to sacrifice everything I have. I'm going to sell everything I have if necessary to keep this business afloat. His company has just continued to dwindle. He says we've been attacked from every side. We've been sued by the people we've loaned the money to, we've been sued by other people who we get the money from to loan, and he says it's just an unbelievable nightmare. If you've read anything about the mortgage business, you know what I'm talking about. He said every single person I know who's in the same kind of business I am is now out of business.

Since September, what he's done is every time one of them went out of business, a couple of their employees would come to him and what he'd do is he'd hire their best salesmen. He said so all of a sudden in October my business went from five million to ten million. And this is not income of course, this is the total amount of loans they're writing. And then this past week, he said God answered our prayers. His main business is writing, what are they called, Sallie Mae, Freddie Mac's, and Fannie Mae's and then I think they're coming out with a new

one, Billy Bob's. And he says you know that's where he writes most of his loans. And what happened with the new stimulus plan this past week. The stimulus plan is going to take loans from four hundred and fifty thousand maximum in the Freddie Mac's, up to almost seven hundred and fifty thousand. So suddenly everybody who has a loan between four fifty and seven fifty are going to go out and refinance their loans! And guess what, he's the last one in business. And why? Because he had the faith. He validated his faith by taking everything he had and just dumping it into his business and hanging on for dear life because that's all he could do.

Some of you may be there today. You just don't know if you can hang on for another month. Just don't know what's going to happen. And the fact of the matter is that God always provides a way of escape. He sometimes comes in and He diverts and manages to change our course of action but something happens and He revives, because that's what the message of Jesus Christ is all about, revival; Bringing to life healing, restoration.

And so these blind men came to Jesus, recognizing who He is, they called out to Him Son of David, have mercy on us! And they validated their faith and Jesus reached out and He touched their eyes. He touched their eyes. Interesting thing about touch, especially for the blind is how important it is. You know as a person with sight, I recognize people through simply looking at them. I look at their face and that's how I recognize people. And I would assume most everyone here with good eyesight does that or even halfway decent eyesight, you recognize people with your sight. People who are blind recognize people through their voice, or through an introduction or in some cases a touch.

What you don't know is that I was a model once. How many people knew that I was a model? You did? You knew I was? I don't think anyone ever saw me model, in fact I know no one saw me model. And the reason I know no one saw me model is because I only modeled once and what I modeled was for the Braille institutes fundraiser, so nobody saw me model. The way you model at the Braille institute when you go there is you just mingle with all of the people who are there. And what they do is they come up and the way they determine whether they like your clothes or not is by the way it feels. And that's all they wanted to do was feel your clothes and that's how I modeled. I let them feel my back and feel my arms and my shoulders and feel my clothes, and then I'd let them feel my shirt, and that's the way I modeled. They identify through touch.

When Jesus touched them, He made it perfectly clear who He was. He was clearly identifiable. And they voiced their belief. Do you believe I'm able to do this? And they said yes Lord, we believe and their eyes were opened. What does it take to open our eyes to the reality of the goodness of God who wants to touch us and revive us and bring us the hope we need.

Pastor in the Almighty God Tabernacle, a new church that was in a strip mall, called his home and his wife didn't answer. He couldn't figure out why she didn't answer but he let the phone ring and ring and ring, it was no big deal. He called back a few minutes later and she answered and he had a conversation with her. And the next day, he got a call from a gentleman who said you called me yesterday. He goes, I did? He goes yes, you called me yesterday. My phone rang and rang and I didn't answer but you called me. He said you have to realize that I was ready to commit suicide. And I said God if You don't want me to pull this trigger, you have to do something right now and that's when the phone rang, and I looked at my caller ID and it said Almighty God, the name of his church. He said I was too afraid to answer the phone. But I unloaded my gun and I put it away and I'm calling you now because I need to know where do I go from here?

What does it take for God to reach out and touch your heart and say you are Mine? Throughout the decades, we've seen some of the most beautiful people in the world taken away. We all have friends that we've lost. Today, God is calling you. Just have a little faith. According to your faith will it be done to you. And He restored their sight.

And then He finally told them to go and don't tell anyone that I've revived your sight, which is kind of silly, isn't it? Can you imagine being in a small community, you're blind tapping your way with a stick throughout the community and suddenly you're walking around and can see? Gee what happened to you? Oh nothing. Just woke up this morning and gee I could see, it was no big deal! He gave them an impossible task and they failed miserably. They exhorted the truth about what Jesus had done in them and for them. And they told everybody. And that's what happens. When Jesus touches our hearts and our souls and our minds and our bodies and our spirits, you have to tell everybody. When you're down to nothing, just remember this: God is up to something. No matter where you find yourself today, the gospel of Jesus Christ is here to revive you, to give the ability to see, to see a way of escape, to see a way of victory, to see a way to revive you. And today, that's what Christ is doing and that's what Christ is all about. So recognize Jesus. Encounter His mercy, validate your faith, identify His touch, voice your belief and exhort the truth and witness the beauty of Christ' love in your heart today.

Dear God, we thank You that as we believe it, we see it. That as life is fragile, You are not. That as our spiritual eyes are opened, our physical healing will be apparent. And so as we travel through this wilderness of life today, we look forward to the beauty and the glory of Your grandeur in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning, forever and always with You, Amen.

HYMN - "O For a Faith that Will not Shrink"

O, for a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe, that will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe.

Lord, give me such a faith as this, and then, whate'er may come, I'll taste, e'en now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home. Singing Amen! Amen! Amen!

NEXT WEEK/BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: Next week, we are going to have gospel singer Wintley Phipps. He's going to be here. He's been here many times before, you probably are familiar with him, and he's going to be singing some beautiful Negro spirituals. With that, let me give you a closing benediction:

And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit revive your spiritual eyes and give you the vision to see the direction that He is calling you today. So may we go forth in peace and express His love to all we meet, Amen.