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## HOUR OF POWER OF 30.03.2008

### GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning. It is a wonderful day to be able to witness the glory of God. And so will you allow the Holy Spirit to flow through you as you reach out and shake the hands of those standing next to you and behind you and say God loves you and so do I.

Well we're going to continue to worship God in a moment of prayer, so would you please join me? Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the opportunity that we have to be in Your house and to lift our voices to You. We lift them in song, we lift them in praise, we lift them spiritually and physically. And so may our words be heard by You. May You hear our cries, may You come and prevent us from harm and may You produce Your healing power within us. And so we thank You Lord for everything You're doing. We love You, Amen.

Now let's continue by singing the wonderful words, "God is My Strong Salvation."

### HYMN - "Medley – God is My Strong Salvation"

God is my strong salvation: What then have I to fear? In darkness or temptation God's light and help are near; Though fears encamp around me, firm in my faith I stand; What terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

God is my strong assurance; My soul with courage waits; God's truth is my endurance, when faint and desolate; With might my heart He strengthens, His love my joys increase; With hope my days He lengthens; And grants to me His peace.

When peace, like a river, attendeth 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.

### DON NEUEN INTRODUCES ANTHEM

DON: Today we would like to sing a wonderful arrangement by Johnnie Carl of the great Sibelius hymn, Finlandia, A Song of Peace. In it we are reminded that although we deeply love our country, our nation, those in other lands also love their countries. And so when we pray for God to bless our nation, let us also pray for God to bless with peace all nations. "A Song of Peace."

### ANTHEM - "A Song of Peace"

This is my song, O God of all the nations. A song of peace for lands afar and mine; This is my home, the country where my heart is, this is my hope, my hope, my dream, my shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams the same as yours and mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are sometimes, sometimes blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and mine.

May truth and freedom come to every nation. May peace abound where strife has raged so long, that all may seek to love and build together a world united, righting every wrong, a world united in its love of freedom, proclaiming peace, together in one song! This is my song, O God. Amen!

#### RHS THANK YOU TO DON & CHOIR

RHS: Thank you, thank you Don Neuen. Thank you for the choir. This church is 52 years old and the first organization was the choir and they have always, always, always been behind me in more ways than one! Thank you so much! We love you all.

And you know I miss seeing you so close. I miss something. Shake hands again with each other so that I can just see your faces turn around. See you from a different angle. That's right! Sometimes you get stuck in a seat. Rainy day reminds me you know I'm heavy into architecture. There's a great story about Frank Lloyd Wright. Built a beautiful home for Johnson who was the president and chairman of the board of Johnson Wax company and that president of Johnson Wax invited all of his power people out of the world to be at his opening of his home. And it's a big gathering and it started to rain and rain. Johnson was upset because he could see a leak and it was landing on his hair then down his brow. He knew the telephone number. Mr. Johnson called Frank Lloyd Wright and he was angry. He said this the grand opening and the roof leaks and it's falling right on my head. Frank Lloyd Wright said, change seats; always a positive solution to everything. This doesn't leak. Isn't it amazing? Well anyway it was planned right.

#### SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses from Psalm 42 & 43 - RHS

RHS: Hear these words in the sacred scripture, written by King David. Just think of it thousands of years ago; His own writing.

As the deer thirsts for streams of water, so my soul thirsts for You, oh God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. Why are you so downcast, oh my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God. By day the Lord directs me with His love. At night, His song is with me, a prayer from the God of my life. Comment: God is always there. Somebody greets you, good morning, good afternoon, at the cooler, wherever. Hi. A smile here, a smile there, a nice word here and there. God is with us all the time if you look for it. Whew. Yes, oh God my God, send forth Your light and Your truth. Let them guide me. Let them bring me to Your holy place, to the place where You dwell. Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise You, oh God my God.

This ends the reading of His holy word.

#### INSTRUMENTAL – HOUR OF POWER ORCHESTRA – “Be Thou My Vision”

#### ANTHEM/GUEST CHOIR – CCA CHORUS – “Swingin’ with the Animals”

Long ago, in the olden days, when God saw that people didn't follow His ways, He told old Noah there would be a flood to cover up the earth, fill it up with mud!

Then the people said, "No way, Noah, there will be no flood. There will be no rain, there will be no mud." But God said, "Noah better listen to me. Build an ark to save your family."

Noah built the ark with his own two hands, then he gathered up the animals throughout the land. In marched the animals two by two, a menagerie, it was quite a zoo!

Still the people cried, "No way, Noah, there will be no flood. There will be no rain, there will be no mud." But God said, "Noah, you have listened to Me, and now I'll save your family."

Forty long nights and forty long days, they rode that boat in the pouring rain, tossin' and turnin' 'til they all turned blue! Swingin' with the animals was quite a zoo!

Then one morning, the pouring rain stopped. God said to Noah, "Not one more drop!" As the earth began to dry, God placed a rainbow in the sky!

Then old Noah said, "Thank You, Lord, Your word was true, now if You don't mind, we'll get out of this zoo!" They strutted right out, strutted two by two, Noah and his swingin' animal crew. The ark was really a zoo!

RAS: That's the Crystal Cathedral Academy under the direction of Carol Aspling and it's good to have you boys and girls here singing for us, you young people. We appreciate it.

#### INTERVIEW – WINTLEY PHIPPS

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RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER WP: WINTLEY PHIPPS

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RAS: Well today I welcome back to the Crystal Cathedral a friend of mine who've I've known for many, many, many years. In fact we were asking each other how long it's been. It's been actually thirty years that we have known each other. He came and sang here for the first time before the Cathedral was even here! And so would you please give a very warm welcome to Wintley Phipps! Wintley we are really, really glad you are here.

WP: Thank you! Praise God.

RAS: You can tell he started singing when he was about six years old.

WP: Oh yeah!

RAS: But the fact of the matter is; I understand we're both the same age!

WP: Yes that's right. And I'm excited; I'm excited this is my thirtieth anniversary of singing on the Hour of Power. Isn't that amazing?

RAS: It's spectacular! Well your singing career has allowed you to sing before presidents..

WP: Yes.

RAS: ..and at Billy Graham crusades.

WP: That's right

RAS: And tell us about the Billy Graham crusade. You know I..

WP: Oh yes! Well I have sung for the Billy Graham crusades for over twenty-six years, but it was interesting how it all happened. I was on an airplane twenty-six years or so ago. An Eastern Airlines flight, that's how long ago it was. And I saw this flight attendant, she looked a little discouraged so I got a cassette copy of my

first recording and I handed it to her. I said you know God has impressed me to give this to you. She said thank you so much. I've been having a really rough time and this will be such a blessing. Well a few days later she was working another flight and saw a man by the name of Cliff Barrows who directs all of the music and the choirs for the Billy Graham crusades. And she said Mr. Barrows it's such an honor to have you on my flight. But can I ask you something? Have you ever heard of a young man by the name of Wintley Phipps? He said no I've never heard of him. She said hold on a minute. And she went back to her purse and got that cassette and handed it to him and said this has been a blessing to me but I want you to have it. And a few weeks later I got a call from Mr. Barrows saying we want you to become one of the soloists with the Billy Graham crusades. Isn't God awesome?

RAS: What an amazing story! How an act of kindness turns into such a wonderful opportunity.

WP: Absolutely.

RAS: I watched a video yesterday on YouTube..

WP: Yes.

RAS: ..of you sharing the history of black spirituals. It was just the most amazing thing to watch and to listen. Would you share that with us now?

WP: Absolutely! For some strange reason it has become what I am about to share, the most watched Christian music video world wide on YouTube.

RAS: Wow!

WP: That's what they tell me. When I was a student in Alabama, a music teacher who is in her 80's now said to me by the way, did you know that just about all Negro spirituals were written on the black notes of the piano. There are five black notes on the piano and I'll show them to you. (PLAYS PIANO) And they just keep recurring. (PIANO PLAYING) And you can go home and play almost any Negro spiritual, just play the black notes on the piano. Watch. (PLAYS PIANO) That's every time I feel the spirit. How about this one: (PLAYS PIANO) That's because the slaves didn't come to America with do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do. That's somebody else's scale, ok? All they had in their musical scale were those five black notes. We know it in music as the pentatonic scale, and they built the power and pathos of the Negro spiritual on just five notes.

And when you study music, you come across what are known as white spirituals, and they're often white composers who work with that scale. In early America, they used to call spirituals slave songs, and they call this scale the slave scale, and I'm going to play for you what some musicologists think is the most famous white spiritual built on the slave scale but just the black notes. (PLAYS PIANO) And of course we know the man who wrote that, John Newton, before he became a Christian, he used to be the captain of a slave ship. And many believe, heard this melody that sounds very much like a west African sorrow chant, and wrote the words to Amazing Grace and set his words or someone set his words to this slave melody. And I believe God wanted that song written just the way it was written so that we would always be reminded whether black or white, rich or poor, in His eyes, we are all connected and we are connected by God's amazing grace.

And I went to the Library of Congress, I looked up that song, I did research on it and wherever you see it authentically printed, it says "words John Newton, melody unknown." I tell people when I get to heaven, I want to meet Abraham and Isaac and Jacob but boy I want to meet that slave called unknown.

RAS: Unknown. Yeah.

WP: What a gift has been given to us and you know, Dr. Schuller, your father said it for many years: God will turn our scars into stars. It is in the quiet crucible of

our personal sufferings that our noblest dreams are born, and God's greatest gifts are given, and this is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity out of suffering, Amazing Grace. I'd like to sing it for you the way I imagine John Newton..

RAS: Please.

WP: ..probably first heard it coming up out of the belly of a ship.

RAS: Wow, please.

SOLO – WINTLEY PHIPPS – “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come. 'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

RAS THANK YOU TO WINTLEY PHIPPS

RAS: Thank you Wintley. Wintley, thank you so much!

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Believe It! See It! – Part 5"

RAS: Well last week I concluded my message with some words that I want to begin my message with this morning because it exemplifies everything about the story that I want to share with you that I want you to take with you today. In fact if you take nothing with you, take this with you and that is these words: When you're down to nothing God is up to something. Did you hear that? When you're down to nothing God is up to something. I think I heard you there. Let me try it one more time. When you're down to nothing God is up to something. Absolutely and that's important things for us to realize. Now I'm going to tell you a story today and the story begins in really by setting the stage and setting the situation. So I'm going to read the law which took place several thousand years before Christ and it's found in Leviticus fifteen and I'm going to read to you the law.

The woman that I'm going to tell you the story about is an Israelite so she lives under this law and this is it: When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period she will be unclean. Any bed she lies on will be unclean and anything she sits on will be unclean. Whoever touches them will be unclean. He must wash his clothes and bathe with water and he will be unclean till evening. The law.

This story. A large crowd followed and pressed around Jesus. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak because she thought if I just touch His clothes I'll be healed. Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. And once Jesus realized that power had gone out from Him and He turned around to the crowd and asked who touched My clothes? You see the people crowded against around You, his disciples answered and yet You ask who touched me? But Jesus kept looking around to see who'd done it and then the woman, knowing that what had happened to her, came

and fell at His feet and trembled with fear and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, daughter your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.

She heard about Jesus. She believed that Jesus could heal her. She acted in faith and she received her healing. It begins with the fact that she heard. The word about Jesus started spreading around Syria and around Galilee and throughout the region and people would come from miles and miles to come and to receive some kind of a healing and people were following Jesus and they were being healed! And this woman heard. She heard about Jesus. She heard about the fact that He could possibly heal her. And it was her last hope. She was down to nothing. She spent everything she had on doctors and trying to get well, but to no hope. She was down to nothing. And when you're down to nothing God is up to something. And she heard. And she got a glimmer of hope. She got a glimmer of hope.

There was a group of frogs who decided to have a race and on the race they decided they were going to climb this high tower and so the word got out that the frogs were racing and all the frogs of the whole world came to watch this amazing feat as they scaled this tower. And as they started racing up this tower everyone started saying, you know it's impossible for anyone to reach the top of that tower and others said look it they can't possibly succeed; they're going to fail. And one by one they would fall and they shouted oh there goes another one! We knew it couldn't happen, it's impossible. And one by one they all fell with the exception: One frog made it to the top. And having made it to the top they interviewed him. They came up to him and they said so tell me where did you find the strength to get up to the top of the tower? He said what? They said, well tell me how did you get up the tower? I'm sorry I can't hear you. I'm deaf. He never heard that it was impossible. He never heard that others were failing. He never heard anything except he saw his goal. He heard that they were going to have a race to the top and that's all he heard. He didn't hear the negative; he just saw his goal and he reached for his goal. And he succeeded.

What do you hear today? When you have nothing and you're down to nothing, what do you hear? Do you hear the voices that say you are nothing, you're down to nothing, you have nothing and there is no hope? Or do you hear that there is possibly a means and a way to succeed? Can you hear that God is up to something? If you can hear that, you can pull yourself out of any hole you find yourselves in today. There is nothing that is impossible with God. Absolutely nothing.

She heard that Jesus was around. She believed. She believed that if she could get close enough to Him to touch His garment. Now think about that for a moment. Let me read the law again. Whoever touches them will be unclean. He must wash his clothes and bathe with water and he will be unclean till evening. And what's her plan? She's going to go and touch Him. Tell me that isn't gutsy. Because she knows He's not going to touch her because he's a rabbi. He's not going to touch her. But maybe she can touch Him and maybe that'll work. And she believed it. St. Paul tells us in Corinthians that we live by faith and not by sight. We live by faith.

So many people say you know I'll believe it when I see it. And if we wait to see it to believe you're going to be waiting a long time because the sight comes to those who believe and when you believe it then you'll see it. This past week I had the privilege of going and listening to a message by an oilman you might be familiar with, a name that is quite common. His name is T. Boone Pickens and he calls himself an oilman and an entrepreneur and a geologist. Well one of the things I heard him say as he was addressing a group of about 280 people was that he's dug

a lot of wells. And you know he said wells, not all the wells that I dug were successful. I hit dry wells; in fact I hit a bunch of dry wells. But I believed in every one. I would never dig a well I didn't believe in. I mean that would be ridiculous. But he said I hit enough of them. I hit some. But I never believed and never dug, how many would I have hit? He would never have hit a single well if he didn't try one of them.

Believe. When you believe you will see it. She heard, she believed and she acted. Somehow she was able to press through the crowd. It was really crowded because even the disciples couldn't figure out what in the world He was talking about and she touched the hem of His garment. Now the hem of His garment, and the garments that Jesus wore probably not what you envision. The pictures that you see that depict the dress of Christ are probably not very accurate. One of the things we know is that Jesus always wore a prayer shawl. Every conservative Jew to this day wears the prayer shawl. It's the same thing you see with Orthodox Jews. They still wear them. And that would have been one of the things that Jesus would have worn. And chances are she touched the actual tassels on His prayer shawl. The prayer shawl was called a tallith. And chances are she touched one of those four tassels. You know every prayer shawl has four tassels on it. Those tassels are to remind them of the power of God reaching the four corners of the earth. Having the ability to do anything. So if she can touch the tassel of His prayer shawl she could be healed. She squeezed through the crowd. She touched it.

I watched a video yesterday, which was a spoof on Tom Hanks movie the Castaway. Are you familiar with that movie? In the Castaway Tom Hanks is lost for several years. He's in a FedEx plane, and the FedEx plane does down, there's all these FedEx packages around there and he finds a volleyball made by Wilson so that's his name. His friend is Wilson, a volleyball. And the movie goes on and he's finally rescued and there is a package that he decided he was going to bring back to a woman. So he goes and he brings this package back to this woman and says I've been stranded on this island for all these years and I wanted to give it to you and it's kind of like the culmination of the movie. Well that's the spoof. The spoof on Tom Hanks. So this man comes walking up to this door and he's got a big long beard. It looks like he's just got off the island, but he's got a FedEx shirt on and he's holding a FedEx box and he hands this FedEx box to this lady and she goes oh thank you! And she opened it up right away, she goes oh good my satellite phone and my fishing hooks and fishing line and my lighter and my.. and she kept pulling out all of these things that could have made life so much comfortable. And you see the man's expression just. That's the spoof on Tom Hanks or I should say on the Castaway.

Question I have for you is this: How many FedEx packages are sitting around our feet and you've never opened them? You're down to nothing and God sends you blessings but you don't have enough faith to open the box. And inside is everything you need to give you the hope, to give you the vision, to give you a map, to give you the direction, to give you what you need to climb from nothing to something. Because when you're down to nothing God is up to something. She heard it. She believed it. She acted and she received it. She was healed and Jesus felt this power leave Him and He whirled around and He says who touched Me? And His disciples are going: are you kidding Jesus? You know look at all these people around You. You want to know who touched You? He goes yes, somebody touched Me in faith. With faith they touched Me and they were healed. And seeing the woman He said your faith has made you well, go in peace. And she was healed.

She was healed in every way. She was healed physically. Which then opened the door so she could go to her temple. She wasn't able to go to her temple for twelve years. She wasn't able to touch anyone for twelve years. She wasn't able to embrace her husband, her children, her grandchildren. She wasn't able to embrace her parents, her friends. She's totally cut off from society in every way. Physically she was healed, which then healed her socially, which at the same time healed her spiritually. And Jesus said to her, go forth in peace. Shalom. Shalom.

Today I encourage you to come before God in prayer. Wherever your needs are, whatever your frustrations are, whatever you are struggles are, whatever you are today just remember this: When you're down to nothing God's up to something. And as a result of that He is going to bless us in some way. We just need to open our ears and hear. Open our hearts and believe. Open our hands and act. Open our hearts and receive. Receive His blessings today. He wants to heal you spiritually, emotionally and physically. And God is in the process of doing that all the time.

So I encourage you to pray. I pray for hundreds of people every week. I get cards, a stack of cards from when our prayer Sundays they keep coming in. I get hundreds of them every week. I go online and I pray for people on our website and I can't begin to tell you how many people are struggling financially, physically, relationally. And this woman had it all. She had lost everything to doctors. She'd lost her health. She'd lost her relationships. And she was lost spiritually. And she had enough faith to simply reach out and everything changed. And the same thing is true with you. If you will reach out to Jesus in prayer everything will change. Because when you're down to nothing God is up to something. Don't ever forget it. Carry it with you always and remember this story. Dear God we thank You that You're in the process of bringing healing and hope and goodness to peoples lives today, tomorrow and always. So help us to hear Your message and to believe that message, to act accordingly and to receive the bounty and the blessings that You have for us. We love You God, 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: Now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit touch your hearts, your minds and your souls with His saving power today, tomorrow and always, Amen.