



## HOUR OF POWER OF 07.09.2008

Good morning. God loves you and so do I. Turn around. Touch someone. Greet someone. Give them a happy good morning. This is an exciting Sunday for you to be in this church. We have Art Linkletter, who is a national treasure, and his record as an entertainer and a performer and a Christian leader in the world, well, he's unmatched probably, surely he's unsurpassed in this country.

So, this is a great morning and let's pray. God, thank You for putting all of these people and pieces together in this place. To give us joy and hope, laughter and love. Thank You. Amen

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### HYMN - "O God, Our Help In Ages Past"

O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,  
Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home. Before the hills in order  
stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting You are God To endless  
years the same. A thousand ages in Your sight Are like an evening gone; Short as  
the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

O God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come,  
O be our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home. Amen! Amen! Amen!

### INTERVIEW - ART LINKLETTER - RHS

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RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER AL: ART LINKLETTER

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RHS: Well, I'm so honored that I can claim as a personal friend. I know him. We like each other. Art Linkletter. One of the great national treasures of the 20th century. Wow. He's been here before, more than once, and was with us last night as we celebrated the Crystal Cathedral Academy and their scholarship fund. It's wonderful having Art with us. And his wife is with us, Lois. They've been married over 60 years.

Well, you know, it would take too long to read his resume, but he has over 10 honorary doctorates. He has written several books. His book, "Kids Say The Darndest Things" is the fourth heaviest selling non-fiction book in American publishing history. Having sold to begin with over 8 million copies. I grew up laughing with him, watching him on television. He was one of the original makers of television at it's best. And his show, Kids Say The Darndest Thing has now come back a couple of years ago and is doing great with Bill Cosby.

He has served many of the presidents of the United States at the highest level. He is chairman of the board in many corporations. Oil drilling around the world, to raising sheep in Australia and goodness knows what. Well, Art Linkletter, we're going to run out of time if I keep talking about you. I love you. We respect you. You are fantastic.

AL: Thank you.

RHS: Welcome.

AL: Thank you.

RHS: Thank you.

AL: Thank you. That was very, very kind introduction. For one brief moment there I thought I was dead. I thought it was a eulogy. But we have known each other for 40, 50 years. I help break the ground for this almost 40 years ago. And

you honored me with my "Turning the Scars into Stars" award. We're old friends. What would you like to ask me?

RHS: Well, what does it feel...how old are you?

AL: I recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of my 36th birthday.

RHS: What is it like to be 86 years old?

AL: Well in the first place I don't feel 86 inside. Almost all of us, you know, as president of the center on aging at UCLA, I can answer this very technically. All of us have 3 ages. Chronologically when we were born. How old we think we are, according to the way we feel, if we didn't know how old we are. And the tough one is how old the doctor says we are. I feel about 50 as a matter of fact. And I never had a mid-life crisis in birthdays. I had a startling...I had a startling beginning and then...

RHS: Tell us about that.

AL: Well, it was unexpected. I was a precocious baby. RHS: You mean you didn't expect to be born.

AL: No. I didn't expect to be born where I was. I opened my eyes two or three days after I was born and I said, where am I? I was precocious. And the doctor said, you are in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

I said, where in the world is that?

He said, It's on the snowy plains of Western Canada.

And I said, where's my mommy and daddy?

And they said, they've left you. They went away. I was abandoned. And I didn't realize what that meant, but I said, who are those two old nice people gazing at me?

And they said, they're your new mother and father. They're going to adopt you.

And I said, Well, where are we going to life?

And they said, Where do you want to live?

And I said, San Diego. I was not a dumb kid you know. I wanted to get out of this snow and ice. But actually they were wonderful old folks in about their late 50's, which in 1912 was old. He was crippled. He was a minister on Sunday's and a shoemaker the rest of the week. And you could say he saved souls (soles) seven days of the week. But, were you a preacher's kid?

RHS: No.

AL: Well then you don't know what happens. When a boy is a "PK," he has automatically built in problems. He's not supposed to be troublesome. He's supposed to be sweet and nice and wholesome. Very big strain on a boy you know. And then there's household strains. When your dad's a preacher he gives a grace at mealtime that you wouldn't believe. I was 14 before a bite of hot food...but it was an interesting life.

The beginning was poor. My folks were poor. We moved around a lot. We lived in houses behind other houses. I never had a whole number on my house. We were the house behind. Then there was the little house behind ours. I think we used to call that a room with a path.

RHS: One or two?

AL: But it did me a lot of good because I had to work. I learned to work and enjoy work. And I've worked hard all my life. And also with a father who was a devout minister, he gave me something worth far more than money. He gave me faith. And my dear mother gave me love. And those are two things that are more important than money, or position, or prestige, or all the other things. Because I could of had all those if fate had determined. Right at my birth when the Linkletter's were moving through Moose Jaw, the week before the Rockefeller's had come through there.

When I think of all the work I've done that I wouldn't have had to do. But then I came to Hollywood. Started to be a school teacher. Got into radio in the depression, 1933 in radio. Then moved over into television in 1950. So I've been in radio and TV 66 years and gone through it all. And now Bill and I are having a great run with kids.

And of course I've always liked being with kids. The two best interviews...were you going to ask that?

RHS: Yeah, I was going to ask you that.

AL: I wonder...

RHS: It says...

AL: ...if sometimes...

RHS: ...it says here that you want me...

AL: Yeah.

RHS: ...to ask you what were the two best interviews. AL: Sometimes when I'm here I wonder if I really need you. RHS: Ohhhh...

AL: But...

RHS: So now Art Linkletter will preach the sermon. Go ahead.

AL: The two best interviews, thanks, hold it for me...The two best interviews are children under ten and people over 65. Those are the best interviews, after 60 years of interviewing. Because they say things that come right out of their heart and mind without any editing. Thirty-five year old people tell me what they think their friends, think they are thinking. But a child and an old person just blurts it out. Children don't know what they're saying and the old people don't care. I'll give you a couple of examples.

I asked a little 8 year old boy one time, why do you think the teacher in your school picked you?. Just four children, one of four to be on my program?

And he said, well I'm the smartest kid in the room.

I said, did the teacher tell you that?

He said, no, I noticed it myself.

But you know Bob, since this is a church and the most splendid and beautiful and startling and dramatic church I've ever been in, I thought I'd tell you that during the summer when the kids were out of public school, we turned on a House Party show, to church schools. And we got kids from Sunday schools that go the year around. And I learned a lot about the Bible from those children. Things never before revealed even in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

RHS: Like...

AL: Well, for instance, now that you've asked me, Here is one thing. I asked a child, how did God create the world?

And he said, well He just started out doing plants and water and worked His way up. All the way up to people. The one I love though, in the beginning, about 95 years ago, God created the pilgrims and the indians and then He made Mary and Joseph and the rest is history.

AL: Now I'll tell you another sweet one. Two sweet ones. Little boy didn't look very happy. I said, don't you enjoy being here on the program?

He said, well, yes, but my dog died last week.

I said, well I can understand. I have had dogs and they're like part of the family. But, you're dog will be waiting for you up in heaven.

And he looked at me, he says, what would God want with a dead dog?

Bob, it's such a delight to be down here with you because I came here some 20, 25 years ago to get Scars Turned into Stars, Scars Turned into Stars and now, hurt into halo. And you and I both agree that one of the greatest things you can do with a hurt is to first of all, realize that everybody hurts sooner or later during their

lifetime, and that you cannot hug it to your bosom, you can't curse the Lord for having it happen.

My daughter took her life at 19, this, the most cruel hurt that you can have, I was in Colorado Springs waiting to speak at the Air Force Academy on the Commencement Day, and the message came through that my daughter had taken her life while under the influence of LSD. And Norman Vincent Peale called me and he said, "Art, we never know what the Lord has in mind for us, but you're part of the American family and you have been for several decades and they're in danger of losing their children as you've just lost yours. An epidemic of drug abuse is sweeping the nation among our kids of all the people who should be happy. And you can tell them not to lose faith and it's not the Lord's idea to punish you by taking your child away."

And I went out and I had the most wonderful period of my life over and above being famous and being successful of helping other people and counseling people. In fact when we started the new show, "Kids Say the Darndest Things," on CBS with Bill Cosby, he had just lost his son, who had been murdered. And I had the chance to console him and talk to him as somebody who knows just exactly. You might think you know, but until you lose a child... I said to him, "How are you... how are you getting over it, Bill?" He said, "Well, Art... I was driving down the street and I stopped at an intersection the other day, and a family drove up alongside me while a red light was on and they looked over and they began to wave, "Hello Bill," and then they thought and they said, "Oh, poor Bill," and I could see their hands come down.

He says, "I don't want to be an object of pity. I don't want to be someone that people looks at and say, oh poor Bill. I make people laugh. So I immediately called my agent and said, 'book me, get me out there, I'm going to make people laugh. And I'm going to try to forget it.'"

And while I didn't do that when I lost my daughter, as you know, I had a drug abuse crusade, I became a Chairman of the President's Drug Abuse Commission and I lectured at United Nations and all over the world on drug abuse, but you do something constructive and help others when you're hurt and that's why your new book is so important for everybody to see.

RHS: I wrote a few people and asked them if they would mind sharing their story. You were the first one to write back. And you wrote it yourself, word for word. And it is published exactly as you tell it. It's going to help so many people. It is true, isn't it, that when this first happened, you went through anger.

AL: Oh yes. Denial, anger, a wonderful Christian family, and a girl at the gateway to life, 19.

RHS: Yes.

AL: Beautiful, talented, didn't know that LSD had been put in her drink at this party in Hollywood, and she leaped from her apartment building. And, so, it was a difficult thing to overcome that and then the second thing I had to overcome was rage at the people and the ones who were distributing the drugs, and the ones who were even taking it. And after a little while I realized that the kids that I was saying, 'arrest them, put them in jail,' they're victims. I forgave them, what they were doing and I loved them and I began to talk about rehabilitation.

I became active in the teen challenge. Traveled all over the country for Dave Wilkerson, raising money to save children and I found that a spiritual core changing in a child beats any psychiatry, any chemistry, any policemen, even ministers who don't preach the way you do. And so, that gave me such a reward and made my life so meaningful, led me into World Vision missionary work all over the world, and at 86, I'm just getting started.

RHS: Thank you Art Linkletter. God loves you.

AL: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

RHS: Thank you. Thank you.

HYMN - "Now is the Time for Faith"

Now is the time for faith, God's love flows fresh and true, O Lord of all our nights and days, we give ourselves to You; Our fervent gift receive, and fit us to fulfill, through all our years, in joy and tears, our Heavenly Father's will.

Teach us wherever we live to act as in Your sight, and do what You would have us do with radiant delight. Not choosing what is great, nor spurning what is small, O lead us to Your noble work, and glorify us all.

PIANO SOLO - CHRIS O'RILEY - "Presto"

ANTHEM INTRODUCTION - DONALD NEUEN

This morning we're going to sing a traditional spiritual, without accompaniment. The spiritual is "There Is A Balm In Gilead."

Gilead was mentioned twice in the scriptures. In Jeremiah and in Genesis. It was a place in Palestine between Jordan and the wilderness. And it was very well known for healing medicinal herbs, spices, myrrh and a healing balm. And the spiritual we're singing sings symbolically, about the balm in Gilead. But really makes a positive statement of faith in the healing balm of our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, with the hurts that we experience daily. Whether in Kosovo, Colorado, Oklahoma, or among the members in our congregation seated here today. And it was very obvious this morning that one of the greatest healing balms of all is laughter with Art Linkletter. But then there are times when we simply need God, to enter our mind with healing. And that's what we would like to sing about this morning.

ANTHEM - CATHEDRAL CHOIR - "There is a Balm in Gilead"

There is a Balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole, There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sinsick soul. There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole, There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain,

But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. There is a balm

There is a balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole, There is a balm There is a balm in Gilead To heal the sinsick soul.

If you cannot sing like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, And say, "He died for all."

There is a balm in Gilead, To make the wounded whole, Oh, There is a balm in Gilead, To heal the sinsick soul. There is a balm in Gilead, To make the wounded whole, There is a balm in Gilead,

To heal the sinsick soul.

RHS - THANK YOU TO CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Thank you for that great message in music!

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER - "Turning Hurts into Halos" - part 2

RHS: I'm continuing this morning my series of messages based on my newest book, "Turning Hurts into Halos and Scars into Stars." I'm never before written a book that apparently is so timely. I didn't realize that I would be visiting Littleton,

Colorado, nor did I realize that I would be having lunch with the Governor and his wife in Oklahoma City, only hours before the tornado would strike and leave it's devastation of ruin. And after the lunch, which continued with leisurely conversation into the afternoon, we made our way to the airport and didn't suspect that the darkening sky in the west held one of the greatest tornados in history.

So we took off and when we landed we heard about the horrible event that had occurred. And my heart and soul goes out to those people today, many of whom are homeless. And I want to tell you, that I understand. If you knew your house was going to burn, and you had a few minutes to get everything you wanted, what would you go after? If you didn't have time to get every place, what would you grab? If it happened in my home, we would grab some of the special pictures.

And then I would shout to Arvella and say, "Have you got the doily and the fork? Have you got the doily and the fork?" Because it was the tornado that struck my home, lifted it high, dropped it a half a mile away and when a tornado lifts your house and drops it, it's like a strong man picking up a raw egg and slamming it on the floor.

We went through that thin rubble of our house and everything in it, and we found this doily. We never use it because it's got two little holes in it, or three. It was a beautiful piece, done in the Netherlands, for my grandmother, who gave it to my mother, and she treasured it so much on a little table. The holes were in the tornado. And she found a few forks and a few other spoons and she gave to each of the five children one of the utensils and I got this fork.

The tornado this week brought back memories. I know what it's like to be homeless. So when I went and slept in my sister's house that night with my father and mother, and the next morning the thing I missed first was my toothbrush. When you're suddenly wiped homeless, and you lose everything except the clothes on your back, and in our case, the car where we successfully raced at the highest speeds to escape the tornado. It's an awesome experience but how do you handle it?

Well we did the next day what we did everyday. Every day we were of an ethnic Dutch tradition. And my father and mother, my grandparents on both sides as with my wife's case, all came from the Netherlands, Hollanders, immigrants to America and they lived in a Holland Dutch colony, in Iowa. And it was customary always to pray a prayer of blessing before you ate, and a prayer of thanksgiving after you ate. You never would leave a table without saying thank you. That would be very, very inappropriate and impolite. And then always after, at noontime, besides having a prayer of blessing before we ate, and the prayer of thanksgiving after we finished, my father would reach under the table, and there would be the Bible on a special little shelf and he would take and read a chapter of the Bible. And that's where I am coming from all my life. A chapter of the Bible every day.

And the favorite Bible readings would be from the Psalms. The Holland Dutch people in the Netherlands in my parents days, did not sing hymns when they went to church. They didn't sing the hymns of Luther, or the hymns of Wesley, they sang psalms. In that tradition and in that country, they took the psalms of David, and the psalms of Moses. And they put them to melody and they were called psalm singers, or psalm singing and they would sing with profound gusto. And so in the Protestant Christian tradition in the Netherlands, unlike in many of the other countries, there was a profound affection and respect for the Jewish people. Because they were the people of the psalms. They were the people of Moses. They were the people of the prophets. And, which is why the Netherlands became the number one place for the underground railroad to save the Jewish people from

the Holocaust. And the windmills were used as stations to hide them as they sought escape. If the coast was clear, the windmill would be formed straight up and down like a cross. If they were under surveillance by the Gestapo, the windmill would form an X, don't stop here. We're being watched.

So Psalm 90 was a favorite psalm as I was growing up. Let me just read a couple of verses. "Lord, You have been our dwelling place." Wow. We read that after the storm had taken away our dwelling place. We read that after the tornado and it removed our house and everything in it except for a doily and a fork. "Lord, You have been our home." What is a dwelling place? My father would give his little sermon. What is a home? What is a dwelling place? It's a place where there is security. It's a place where you feel safe. It's a place where you feel love. It's a place where you feel accepted. It's a place where you feel honored. Lord, You have been our house and our home. Our dwelling place in all generations for centuries. Yes.

I invite you to embrace the faith deeper than you've ever embraced it before because it was that kind of faith that helped me as a child to go through storms. I learned in infancy how to deal with hurts. This book, "Welcome To The Human Race" is chapter one. If you are hurting today, even if you are the innocent victim of a gross injustice, welcome to the human race. You can be sure you're a human being. All humans have their hurts. We're up to chapter four today. "How Do You Handle Your Hurts?" The truth is, your hurt is a mountain on the move. It's not standing still. It's going to be different tomorrow than it was yesterday. And you can change the shape of it. You could surely choose the color of it. You handle it. Hurts can be horns. They can make you angry and the anger can make you mean. With intuitive inclination is to become angry.

Your hurt must not become a horn. Second, it must not become a black hole. If you don't handle your hurt, it has a way of sapping the enthusiasm from the subconscious and the subconscious is ahead of the conscious. And before you know it, you'll lose focus on your dreams and your goals and your God assigned obligations. I've been through my hurts in life, none like some of you are going through. In the hall of fame of heroes who turned their hurts into halos, it's a chapter in this book. I'm not in that chapter. I don't deserve to be. Art Linkletter is. June Scobee Rogers is. And there are others.

But how do you turn a hurt into a halo. I have ten commandments in this chapter four. Time is brief, read it. You will find help there. But let me list them, at least, with a brief comment in the few minutes I have.

There are five don'ts and five do's. Ten Commandments in all.

Commandment #1: Don't make any swift negative, irreversible decisions. Decisions that are irreversible should always be made when you're at your best, not your worst. Your smartest, not when you are emotionally overwhelmed by sorrow and grief. That's obvious, so you don't make any decisions. Unless they're positive. But don't make any swift negative, irreversible decisions. Now that is step number one.

Step #2. Commandment #2: Don't emotionalize the hurt. All kinds of emotions will want to come in like anger and anger and jealousy and bitterness. Self pity and total discouragement and then depression. They're natural. They're normal. But they're not healthy. You start with your head, you don't start with your hurting heart. Start with a smart head, not a smarting heart. Don't emotionalize.

Number 3: Don't personalize the pain. And your tendency will be to personalize the pain. I made the mistake... it was my fault. Guilt comes in. Hey, get off of that. There were a lot of other factors and forces that contributed to this. Stop and

think how many other factors and forces there were in the timing of the whole incident. Just don't personalize it.

Number 4: Don't make things worse than they are.

Number 5: Don't surrender leadership of your life to the negative forces that come sweeping in with the pain. Like other fears or other faces, how do you keep control over how you handle it is, well I think you've just got to go back to the Bible and do what my father and mother taught me to do every time we were hurt. Read the Bible.

Next commandment, do check your value system. Are you still living by the Ten Commandments? Are you still living by the teachings of Jesus? Are you still keeping your faith alive? Are you still attending the church? Are you seeking Christian companionship? Are you listening to positive thinking Christians?

Commandment #7: Do listen to caring voices that you've never listened to before. God is all around us. He is in human beings that we don't even recognize. And He will try to comfort you. He cares about you and He probably will be speaking, maybe through a preacher, maybe on television, maybe on the radio, maybe through a tract. Listen to voices that you've listened to before. You'll be surprised how God will use them.

And do ask, what's the worst that can happen to you. What's the worst? And connect yourself with God and with Jesus Christ and you can deal with the worst. If you can deal with the worst, you will be able to handle this hurt if you follow the next commandment and that is, see your hurt as a process, not an event. That's very important. The hurt isn't finished. You haven't heard the last of it. God will have the last word and He can bring good out of the badness. Give God time. He'll turn it to your advantage. You talk about God being able to put a positive spin on a negative situation, hallelujah.

The tenth commandment is: You'll begin to thing possibilities. How can use this pain to help others? You'll become a goal setting person again. You'll become an idea managed human being. You'll become a dream driven creature. And that will make you come alive. And finally, you'll live the rest of your life and guess what? No more hurts at all. I wouldn't say that. But you will have developed a behavior, a character, a personality that intuitively, instinctively, impertinently very positively takes the disappointments, the discouragements, the insults, the embarrassments, the set-backs and you find yourself a hope-acholic thinking, wow, how can I put wings on this wound? And then one day your faith will pay the big dividend.

I tell a story here and I close. As I was finishing this book my daughter Gretchen, who lives next door to us, her little girl was in the swimming pool and I heard her call her daughter, Julia, it's time to come home.

Julia said, why is it dinner time?

Her mother said, no. It's time to come home.

And Julia said, why? Are we going someplace?

And her mother said, no, Julia it's just time to come home.

And Julia said, okay.

Now for you, you and for me, we have our hurts. We have our wounds. And someday you will hear Jesus Christ call you. It'll be a secret between you and Him. And you'll hear Him say it's time to come home. And the shock will be, how good you'll feel as you say, okay. Okay. I'm ready.

Let's pray. Lord, what a wonderful gospel we have. You came in Jesus Christ to tell us the truth about life and death. You taught us the truth about how to handle hurts, and how to turn tragedies into triumphs and scars into stars and hurts into

halos. And someday, we'll get the big one. The really big one, and what started out as the ultimate hurt will become our ultimate halo. Amen.

HYMN - "One Light"

One light, a light unto the world, Your light, a beacon brightly shining. One truth spoken from the heart, A part of You will always be the part that is the best in me. One light, a light unto the world.

One light, a light unto the world, Your light, a beacon brightly shining. One truth, spoken from the heart, a part of You will always be the part that is the best in me. One light, a light unto the world. One light, unto the world.

BENEDICTION

RHS: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you peace. In your lying down and in your rising up. In your labor and in your leisure. In your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus in that day in which for you there will be no sunrise, no sunset, only eternal light and life forevermore. Amen.