

HOUR OF POWER OF 18.01.2009

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Dr. Robert H. Schuller shares his new vision for the Hour of Power, America's television church.

RHS: We want to focus on the positive and give the non believing world that tunes into this television ministry, whether it's in China or Russia or America or South America; wherever. We want them to see that Christians are united.

VO: Then the amazing voice of Beth Groombridge.

BETH: And though I walk through death's dark vale..

VO: Then Dr. Walt Kallestad, pastor of the Church of Joy in Phoenix, Arizona will give you storm stopping faith to get through the crisis in your life.

WALT: Where is your faith? This storm stopping faith as Romans tells us comes from the One who is Lord over nature and Lord over all. His name is Jesus Christ.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller.

HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Good morning. I have good news today. Even though our world is turmoil, economically, politically, in relationships, in religion, and in ourselves, we have our turmoil. But here I feel peace because Jesus Christ was here before the person came in this morning and watched you all come. That's the good news so this is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Oh God, it's easy because the power of positive thinking, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the presence of these people, all of us make us feel the eternal one is with us. Hallelujah, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – O Friend/He Giveth/Spirit of the Living God"

O friend, repeat God's praise, Whose mercies are so great, Whose judgment is so wise and just, Whose love decides my fate. High as the heav'ns are raised God lifts my deepest needs, so far the riches of His grace my highest thought exceeds.

God's pow'r subdues my doubts, and His forgiving love far as the East is from the West does all my guilt remove. And God's compassions great to endless years endure. And children's children ever find His words of promise sure.

God gives us more grace when our burden grows greater, He sends us more strength as our labors increase; To added affliction He adds all His mercy, to multiplied trials, His multiplied peace. His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto us; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He gives, and gives, and gives again.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me, on me.

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHEM – DON NEUEN

DN: Thanks, you may be seated. The very special anthem today that the choir will sing comes from II Samuel in the Old Testament. It's a world premier. It was composed specifically for the Crystal Cathedral Choir by professor Henry Smiley of Belmont University in Nashville Tennessee. Henry's here with his wife Katy and his two children, Hannah and Ian. And we welcome you here to the service today. I should say that Henry was a graduate student of mine twenty-five years ago probably when I was at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; wonderful conductor, wonderful composer and for a long time he's been watching the Hour of Power and wanted to write a song for our choir.

To paraphrase the II Samuel text today, it cries out awake, awaken and it is the host of heavenly angels, the cherubs and the seraphs telling each other wake up and praise God, thank God for leading us out of the darkness and into the light. The same words can apply to us today that maybe we need to wake up, awaken and praise God and thank God for being our shield, our refuge, our fortress and our strength in all things of our family, of our nation, and of our world. Our soloists are Mindy Kim soprano and Chris Campbell tenor.

ANTHEM – “Awake! The Seraphs and Cherubim”

Awake! The seraphs and cherubim. Awake! Awake! God, the Lord, my rock and my strong hold, my strong hold. He is my rock! my holy shield! The seraphs fly over us on high. They offer tidings, tidings of the Lord. Evermore! Evermore! I will sing to Him. He's my shield. He's my refuge, my fortress!

Awake! Awake! God has saved us from our (enemies) God the Lord, has saved us from the (darkness). He has saved us from the darkness. He is my rock! the Lord of lords! Exalted, deliver us into light. He transforms the darkness into light! His love is the light, the (lamp of life) Evermore. Evermore I will sing His glad tidings, Lord of love, the Lord of light eternally.

Praise to God, exalted on high. Reaching down, He scatters all my foes. All His laws sustain me in truth. God, my rock, exalted Lord of love. Rejoice in God, Awake! Amen!

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 23 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. The scripture reading this morning is Psalm 23.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His namesake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

May God add His blessing to the reading of these words from David the Psalmist.

ANTHEM - "Total Praise”

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, You are the strength of my life. I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You. Your peace You give me in time of the storm. You are the source of my strength, You are the strength of my life, I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.

RHS THANK YOU TO CHOIR

RHS: Join me in saying two words to the choir: thank you.
(AUDIENCE – THANK YOU)

ANNOUNCEMENT - RHS

RHS: In staff devotions the other day, I shared some thoughts on the seasons of life. God has created the seasons: summer, winter, spring and fall. Life has its seasons of poverty and plenty. Arvella and I grew up in the season of poverty. We never had Christmas gifts or birthday presents. We knew poverty: outhouse, no running water, only corncobs to heat the house in the winter. And I suppose I was being prepared later on to give witness to a line that tough times never last but tough people do.

This ministry has experienced different seasons. I remember the time I received a prayer and a blessing from Norman Vincent Peale and I was introduced to starting a new church here. And I said to my uncle, you know, am I to start a denominational church? We are affiliated with the oldest protestant denomination with a continuous ministry in the United States of America. Started in 1628 we bought what today is called Manhattan Island. Maybe we sold it too cheap. I don't know.

But this is a great old, a very tiny denomination but we made our mark. One of the four President's carved in stone in South Dakota is a member of our denomination, Teddy Roosevelt. Oh we made our mark; one of the greatest ministers in the history of the United States was Norman Vincent Peale. And this ministry has made movements that have changed the shape and the face of Protestant and even Catholic ministry for the good - God's grace, the Holy Spirit.

No we've had seasons of the early beginnings. And I was called to start a mission, not a church. There is a difference, quite a difference. The church is a gathering of people who share a faith, ritual, creeds, etc., and I have all respect for the church. But a mission is a place where you ask non-believers to come and find hope! And feel love! Probably never preach a sermon on some of the creeds because we are a mission first, we're a church second. And that's what made this church from the very beginning a church unlike any existing church at the time in the United States. It's why in our history 50,000 pastors have come through to pick up this spirit and to go home and build upon it and even better. Bill Hybels is one, Rick Warren is another. I could go on but in the world today most of the big churches came here to find your spirit and your sharing of the faith.

We've experienced lots of seasons, tremendous changes and because we were moving forward and outward, and we're in such a process today. We started as a television church, the first and still the longest running television church in history. And we tried to be a church, not just to our members who sit here, because billions of people who don't sit where you sit and don't have the faith that you have, are listening and looking, watching and waiting to catch your spirit.

We have become, unintentionally, the television church of America and are so known, and are so identified around the world in the Russian language, in the Chinese language, almost 40 years. No televised church service in the world is like ours, the longest running.

And we're in the process of coming to believe that the televised church service from the Crystal Cathedral will be continuing to go out to the world for decades, centuries to come.

And for this, we don't want just one face or one name to be the spokesman. We're going to invite great preachers in America that have never been on television to be guest preachers here. And in fact, the greatest sermons ever preached from the Crystal Cathedral here in Garden Grove will be by guest pastors. It'll no longer just be the face and voice of this guy or some other minister in this church. We've grown beyond that. And we have to prove to the world that we are ecumenical! We're not just one denomination with a name like Schuller. We are a representation of the beloved Christians, whether they are Pentecostals, whether they are Orthodox, whether they're Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, or whatever. And you will hear from some of these great voices that you've never heard from because they are tied to a building in a state, in a town and they're never exposed to the world. We want to make them known and honor them, and honor the little churches. That's where I come from, a little country church in Iowa. And I want to leave a ministry that gives expression to the world that there are a lot of different churches out there, even denominations but we are united in Christ. We love Him. And the real minister's name that we honor is Jesus, not Schuller.

We want to focus on the positive and give the non believing world that tunes into this television ministry, whether it's in China or Russia or America or South America, wherever, we want them to see that Christians are united. Politics splits up people. Oh the governance and in message. But we have been accepted as America's television church and are extending this global ministry like nothing like it has ever happened in the history of Christianity. And we will feature the great preachers from the world, starting with names of men who came here, went to our Institute 40 years ago, 39 years ago, the past 40 years. You'll expect, of course, Bill Hybels, who's one of the greatest ministers in the world and we were friends of him 40 years ago.

Yes we could go on but it's not unusual because we've often used the great ministers. Fulton Sheen, the Roman Catholic church was invited to preach in our church for probably four Sunday's, I don't remember how many, but when he died, we televised his sermons here! Fulton Sheen, a dear friend. Norman Vincent Peale, the greatest positive thinking preacher from a mainline denomination in history! How often has he preached here, I don't recall. Oh, here they come from around the world, and wow. Corrie ten Boom, remember her? This was the church that gave her the platform; this was the church that gave her the television platform to millions. Henri Nouwen, top of the ladder, Roman Catholic, theologian phenomenally. Eva Burrows, president of the Salvation Army. Max Lucado, great author, great churchman. Billy Graham, yes, and Kirby Jon Caldwell. Oh, just to name a few names.

In the next year and years to come, the names of the person who delivers the morning message will probably be different more often than continuing to be what its been; just really Robert Schuller. This is an expansion. We are still a mission station letting the world know that the church, whatever its denomination, whoever is the face and voice preaching here week after week, will say to the unbelievers 'come, visit the church where you live. Christ is alive.'

Yes, this is America's first, longest running and most widely viewed televised church service. It will present the ecumenical faith in its best sense so that the world will know there isn't this denomination or this denomination or this church. But that all of us are part of the kingdom of God and the Lord is named Jesus Christ. He is the head of the church.

So from this pulpit I predict the Hour of Power will continue bringing to the world the greatest music, church organ, has I think 17,000 pipes. That's phenomenal. This is our mission! This is our focus!

So what is our response today? St. Paul in prison writes these words to Timothy and these are my words to you, today from the Bible. II Timothy chapter 4 verse 2: "Be ready in season and out of season. Preach the word, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." That's Christ speaking to you, here today. Don't fulfill Schuller's ministry, fulfill your ministry. What is your ministry? People say they don't go to the church because they don't like the minister. They're making a big mistake. The church is a place where the ministers of Christ come together. You are the ministry, yes you are. And if you're not getting enough out of this ministry, maybe you're not giving enough to begin with. I find my ministry and feel that I'm a minister when I touch someone who's sick. Oh Randy Zimmer this week, who's dying and I make these hospital calls. You can be a minister where you are if Christ is your living Lord.

So I challenge you today simply to give yourself to Christ, hallelujah, Amen.

SOLO – BETH GROOMBRIDGE - "The Lord is My Shepherd – Psalm 23"

The Lord is my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie in pastures green He leads the quiet waters by.

Yea though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff my comfort still.

Your goodness and mercy all my days shall surely follow me; And in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be! My dwelling place shall be.

RHS INTRODUCES WALT KALLESTAD

RHS: And today for one of our first preachers I've invited Walt Kallestad. Now Walt has been a friend of mine for many, many years. He went through our Institute for Successful Church Leadership. Founder and pastor of probably the biggest, well surely one of the greatest, Lutheran churches in the world and Walt is a member of my board of directors. When you hear some decisions being made and things are changed, we think they're always good changes or we wouldn't have prayed our way through to the end. And Walt Kallestad stands among the highest in the ministries of America in my heart and soul. And Walt, I want to thank you for coming here to deliver the message, to serve on our board of directors, all totally free.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – WALT KALLESTAD

"Storm Stopping Faith"

WK: Thank you. I want to talk about storm stopping faith and you sang about it. I want to talk about life giving hope and also world changing love.

As a member of the international board I have to tell you I'm so humbled to be able to speak to you. We have been through some days where we have cried

together, we've spent time praying together, we've spent time with some of the leadership walking around campus, crying out to God, trusting that God isn't scratching His head, wondering well you know now what am I going to do? There are some big challenges ahead. I have no idea what to do but God does know what to do. God is in control.

Our heavenly Father told us it wasn't going to be easy, He said it would be worth it. And during these times of transition, I express to you how encouraged I am when the churches around the world are so divided, they're so fractured, there is not unity in the body of Christ and that breaks God's heart. And for this ministry, for Hour of Power and the Crystal Cathedral to step forward and say we are going to bring unity in the body of Christ. We are going to pray for it, we're going to open up our hearts, open up our lives and open up our campus in order that that can transpire. I am so encouraged and that message is a positive message to the whole world.

And I want you to know what we prayed in one of our prayer sessions, here's what we prayed: We prayed in Ephesians 4, where God's word tells us, "Therefore, I a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each others faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father who is over all and in all and living through all."

This is God's good news. God, His heart has to be filled with joy in this new direction of the Hour of Power and the Crystal Cathedral. And I want to take you right now to a place that I believe the apostle Paul in writing Romans wanted us to go. Dr. Schuller said it. This is not about building the kingdom of the Schuller's. It is not about building the kingdom of the Hour of Power. Their ministry is not about building the kingdom of the Crystal Cathedral, it is about building the kingdom of God. And there are two kingdoms. There's a kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God, there's a kingdom of the earth. And when the kingdom of heaven breaks through, lives are transformed. People are healed, relationships are reconciled. There's transformation, the world changes. Well if we promote simply the kingdom of the earth, we're told that that will come to an end. Yes, our churches, I have a congregation, Community Church of Joy in Phoenix Arizona. I know that campus, even though it's a vast campus with a lot of buildings, that's not what it's about. I tell people one day this will come to an end. But there are three things that will last. And in 1st Corinthians, Paul tells us, "Three things will last forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."

So I want to take moments to focus our hearts and minds on the 8th chapter of Romans. The word of God is the final authority on everything. As preachers, what we say may be interesting but it is not going to change your life. What God has to say will change your life. That's why I want to take us for a few moments as we focus on God's word. In Romans the 8th chapter, beginning with verse 26: "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness." There is a great deal of weakness that surrounds us and this storm stopping faith comes from Jesus Christ. And one of the great passages that remind us of that is Luke the 8th chapter. "And one day Jesus said to the disciples, 'Let's cross to the other side.' So they got into the boat. As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap but soon a fierce storm came on the lake. The boat was filling with water and they were in real danger. The disciples woke Him up shouting, 'Master, Master, we're going to

drown!' When Jesus woke up, He rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then He asked them, 'Where is your faith?'" This storm stopping faith, as Romans tells us, comes from the One who is Lord over nature and Lord over all. His name is Jesus Christ.

And Paul goes on to write, "For example we don't know what God wants us to pray for but the Holy Spirit prays for us with groaning's that cannot be expressed in words." Have you ever cried so hard that you can't even get the words out? Last night at the airport, coming in, there was a woman sobbing and sobbing. She put her luggage down and my wife and I went over and we held her and she was unable to even articulate what was going on inside. And God knows there are times in our life through the economy, through family crisis, through illness, pain and suffering, He tells us when our groaning's are so great words cannot be expressed; the Holy Spirit, which is a person, our advocate. Jesus said I'm going to heaven. I'll send you an advocate. I'll send you one who is the greatest possibility thinker who ever lived. His name is Jesus. He not only prays for us, He answers our prayers. I don't know of a greater deal than that. Our heavenly Father tells us, look when you can't pray, I'll pray and I'm the one who answers the prayer, so even though you don't know what's best, I'll pray what's best. Even though you don't know what the future holds, I do. I know what's in the future. And I'll be there arranging the best for you. And even though you don't know what pleases Me, we don't know in our human limitation, what will please the heart of God. Our heavenly Father tells us I'll pray that way in order that that will be fulfilled. Isn't that good news? That is wonderful news. This is the greatest passage of prayer in the New Testament, I believe. What a powerful word. And then he goes on and he tells us, "And the Father, who knows all hearts, knows what the spirit is saying, for the spirit pleads for us believers in harmony." It's the synergy and the ultimate good that God has in store for us. He loves to give good gifts to His children. It is in harmony with God's will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

So there's storm stopping faith and there's also life giving hope. And God promises us that not all things turn out good, but what He tells us here that all things, if you'll let Me be in charge, all things will make you more and more like Me in every way: Your thought life, your relationships, your actions, your decisions. God wants us to become more and more like Him and that's what He's saying. Saying let Me make you more like Me in all the fires and all that you go through. Let Me make you more like Me.

I had a woman share with me this last week that yes there's a recession, but her family has decided not to participate. She said, "There's great hope," so she went out shopping, she said. Well, I'm not sure that's the answer, but what God wants us to know is that there is life giving hope in Him. He is Lord over the recession. And He holds our future.

And then He goes on, that is good news. Isn't that good news? And then Paul goes on, "For God knew His people in advance and He chose them to become like His Son so that His Son would be the first born among His brothers and sisters and having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself and having giving them right standing, He gave them His glory." So He offers you, He offers you that which is life giving, not only abundant life today, but eternal life forever.

And then these powerful words and I end today with these words: "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these; If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" Can you just say it with me? God is for me. Can you just say that?

God is for me. He is. He's not only for you, He's with you. He is beside you, He's above you, He's around you, He's in your hearts. Since He did not spare even His own Son, but He gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else? And the one who died on the cross, who shed His blood for you and for me, He offers us that world changing love. That sin stained cross had the blood stained love of Jesus Christ wash us clean. Being a Christian isn't about stopping our suffering, it's about being able to have one who has suffered, who knows how to handle it, who will carry us through and one day He will set us free.

As we walk in Christ, He tells us that victory is ours through Jesus Christ who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below. Indeed nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus, our Lord. That deserves an applause.

God, nothing is going to separate Your love, nothing in all creation. He loves you with an ever lasting love and I can't improve on what God said, so I'm going to say Amen.

HYMN - "Great is Your Faithfulness"

Great is Your faithfulness, O God My Father! There is no shadow of turning with You; You never change; Your compassion, it fails not: As You have been, You forever will be. Great is Your faithfulness. Great is Your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed, Your hand has provided. Great is Your faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endures Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow blessings are mine with ten thousand beside! Great is Your faithfulness. Great is Your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed, Your hand has provided. Great is Your faithfulness! Great is Your faithfulness! Great is Your faithfulness, Lord unto me!

BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Thank you again, Walt. God bless you and your wonderful church.

WK: Thank you.

RHS: And all of your free services, whether it's preaching here or serving on the board.

WK: Thank you.

RHS: You are loved.

WK: Thank you.

RHS: Yes, you may applaud him. Hey, now may the Lord bless you and keep you, and make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Give you peace in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you stand before Jesus in that day in which for you there will be no sunrise, no sunset, only eternal life forevermore.