

HOUR OF POWER OF 05.04.2009

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Bill Dallas went from the height of real estate success to a four by ten foot prison cell at San Quentin. That's when God transformed his life.

BILL: I would go down to the prison yard at San Quentin every day and I would go on the ground and I would crawl up in a ball in the fetal position, un-bathed, un-shaven, crying and this was as a believer in Christ, praying to God like Elijah prayed to God under the broom tree, take my life, I've had enough.

VO: Also today, an Hour of Power favorite artist, Bridgette Bentley.

BRIDGETTE: Because they believe God who was bigger than their circumstances..

VO: Then, Dr. Robert Schuller welcomes Bishop Charles Blake, the presiding Bishop over the six million member church of God in Christ and pastor of the West Angeles Church of God, who will share just how you can overcome negative circumstances and emotions in your life.

BISHOP: Stop telling God about your terrible problem mountains, and start telling your mountains about your God.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power from the Crystal Cathedral.

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!

OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION - RHS

RHS: Good morning! Welcome to a place where we're going to tune in to the eternal spirit of God and He is the ultimate positive thinker. So you're going to hear positive thoughts here. They'll come to your mind. Don't dismiss them. Take them seriously for God is here to connect with you.

Now I want a special welcome to our international representatives of our ministry. This ministry is in many countries and the leaders in these countries come together once a year here for coordination and where are they seated? Raise your hands. Oh yeah, terrific, aren't they? Oh they come from China and Russia, everything in between. Welcome.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Dear God, we're surely not alone in this universe. There are all those lives that are not made out of meat and bones and hair and blood like we are, but they're specially created, the angels, and You and Your son Jesus. We're in a spiritual universe, God, and thank You for creating this and for making us a part of it, for taking us out of the cold secular world where there are no happy tears of joy and grace. And to bring us to a place where we can laugh and cry and dream and feel Your presence, Amen.

HYMN - "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less/Trusting Jesus"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His love, support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. Trusting Jesus every day, trusting through my daily way; Even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus - that is all. Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by, trusting Him whatever befall, trusting Jesus - that is all.

Brightly does His Spirit shine into this small heart of mine; With His strength I cannot fall, trusting Jesus - that is all. Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by, trusting Him whatever befall, trusting Jesus - that is all, is all.

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 18 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. In preparation for today's message, hear these words from Psalm 18, a song of David the servant of the Lord who spoke to the Lord these words on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies. He said, think of it. These words were spoken, put down in writing, have been preserved by the Jewish people in the Old Testament and now in the New Testament and today are still strong, powerful. He wrote:

I will love You, oh Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. Oh God, my strength in whom I will trust, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my enemies. In my distress I call upon the Lord and cried out to my God. He heard my voice in the temple; my cry came before Him even to His ears. For You will light my lamp. The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For You I can run against a troop. By my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect. The word of the Lord has been proven. He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God except the Lord and who is a rock except our God. The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

This is the word of the Lord.

ANTHEM - "At the Edge of Tomorrow"

Here we stand at the edge of tomorrow, eyes on the Master, His call to heed; Lord, we are ready, our spirits are Yours to follow where You lead! We will follow, follow, follow where You lead!

Standing tall at the edge of tomorrow; It matters not what may lie in store, for we will dwell in the shelter of His love through tomorrow and forevermore.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven! As we count our many blessings for the days that have been, as we leave, as we leave the threshold, filled with awe with what lies ahead; May we soar, may we soar like eagles, secure, secure and unafraid!

O, God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home! A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone; Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal home!

Standing at the edge of tomorrow, may we soar like eagles! Hallelujah! Amen!

INTERVIEW – BILL DALLAS

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER BD: BILL DALLAS

RHS: My guest today is somebody who has been in ministry to me. A very unusual person, Bill Dallas the founder and CEO of the Church Communication Network, a satellite and Internet communications company that serves over six thousand churches across North America. Our ministry partnered with him in our Faith Forward movement and Rethink conferences. Today Bill is here to share how God reached into his life.

After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a distinguished degree, he went on into business and made some bad decisions that eventually caused him to lose his thriving real estate business and send him to San Quentin State Prison. There are prisons and there are prisons and there are prisons and then there is San Quentin. He was finally released in 1995 but during his time in prison God captured his heart. He's detailed his journey in his new book, Lessons from San Quentin: Everything I needed to know about life I learned in prison. That's the book. Welcome with me, Bill Dallas.

BD: Thank you, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: I can see Jesus Christ in your life but I can't roll it back to find out how you landed in San Quentin for two and a half years. Could you hear the iron door clang behind you?

BD: I heard it and I thought I was never going to get out. I had made some very poor choices prior to being sentenced. I was not a Christ follower. I cut every corner imaginable and deservedly so I ended up in San Quentin. But I'd come to know Christ just before I went into prison but when I went into prison it was a true test of my faith. And it brought me to my knees, literally. I would go down to the prison yard at San Quentin every day and I would go on the ground and I would crawl up in a ball in the fetal position un-bathed, un-shaven, crying and this is as a believer in Christ, praying to God like Elijah prayed to God under the broom tree, take my life; I've had enough. And I thought I was never going to get out of that prison experience.

RHS: Wow. You were not born and raised in a heavy Christian environment. When did you become a Christian?

BD: After I had lost everything in real estate just before I was about to go to prison, I was in my penthouse and I had all the fancy cars and the clothes and every toy that went with it and I lived a very wild lifestyle. Well it was all started being taken away from me because it was all being reposed and taken and just before my penthouse was taken, I was there one Sunday night and I was by myself and I don't know why, but I felt this emptiness that I'd never felt before in my life. And I dropped to my hands and knees and I asked Christ into my heart. And I remembered a saying I'd heard when I occasionally go to young life when I was in high school that the leader would mention about Blaise Pascal said that we're all created with a God shaped vacuum and until you put God in His rightful place you will go through your whole life searching to fill that hole with things. Well I did, you know, I did it with sex and I did it with money and I did it with cars and I did it with career and everything else you can imagine, but it never fulfilled the hole until I asked Christ into my heart.

And there began my journey with Christ. But because of so many of the things I'd done in the past, my salvation was secure and my emptiness was now full, but there was things from my past that I now was going to have to deal with and one

of them was my real estate dealings. So a few months later I ended up getting arrested and ultimately settled on a situation where I went to San Quentin to serve two and a half years. So I had the relationship with Christ but I had a lot of things to deal with. And then I ended up going to San Quentin and as mentioned it was the toughest, most difficult time I'd ever experienced in my life and I thought as a believer that I was never going to get out. Because I think sometimes as Christians we have the relationship with Christ but then when tough times come we wonder how do we get through them? I mean how do we get through it when God, He saved us but how does He save us through our difficulties and circumstances? And through a few miraculous things that happened while I was in prison, God was able to not only get me through the experience but He was able to grow my character and give me strength that I never knew that I had.

And I think two of the things that really got me through the process was one I was occasionally being encouraged by things that I would read. One of the things, which was amazing I got a pamphlet from the Possibility-Thinking Institute, Dr. Robert Schuller. And in it I remember reading in the yard things like "tough times never last but tough people do." And one of my all time favorites, "inch by inch anything's a cinch." And which proved that if you could just keep walking you can get through it.

But the second thing, which God orchestrated, and my mistakes but God orchestrated my mistakes for something good because He introduced me to a group of lifers. People that had been in prison for fifteen, twenty, twenty-five years; murderers, kidnappers and others who I at first thought before I went to prison were the worst of the worst and there was nothing good to be found in these people, but they had miraculous transformation in prison with Christ and they were new people and they became my brothers who groomed me and walked me and taught me how to live a Christ life.

In fact one of the reasons why I wrote the book, Lessons from San Quentin wasn't just so much about my story, it was about their story. About how you really walk in difficult times like what's happening today in our economy. What's going on with marriage when things are tough, how do you get through it? They showed me that you can get through the toughest of tough times. It may not be a physical prison; it may be the prison of your mind. You can get through it. And when I was told that I was invited to come speak here, two of the inmates, former inmates that actually were in prison for over twenty years, two of my brothers that helped me walk through the most difficult time of my life, paroled just recently and they live in this area so I invited them to come today and they're here actually sitting right down in front.

RHS: Would they stand?

BD: I think they would and it's Ben Vaughn and Vy Lee, two of the greatest men I've ever met in my life.

RHS: Thank you.

BD: And these are men that really understand what it means to walk through the most difficult times of our life and to come out on the other side not hardened but have a soft heart. Not giving up but being stronger and ultimately helping others and you know my book, my life is a tribute to men like this.

RHS: You're wearing a wedding band. That's a lot of stories behind that, I'm sure. But I didn't realize you were happily married until this morning when I saw the band. Put a tear in my eye. God loves you, so do I. Thank you.

BD: Thank you.

SOLO – BRIDGETTE BENTLEY – "Choose to Believe"

Though not perfect, You called me to fulfill my destiny. Through my doubts and fears You dried my tears and said child, "Just trust in Me and through it all, I'll help you to be what you speak about, what you sing about when you tell the world of Me."

Just believe I'm a God who is bigger than Your circumstance. Just believe I'm a God who will do just what I say. Just believe even when you cannot see Me, can't feel Me, can't heal Me but you know Me; just choose to believe.

Oh, He's a God who brings the sun out in the morning and with His mighty hand, He keeps the land back from the sea. He raised the dead, five thousand souls He fed and He brought three boys out of the fiery furnace, the people was amazed and He wondered "How could this be?"

Because they believed in a God who was bigger than their circumstances. They believed in a God who would do exactly what He said. They believed even when they could not see Him but they knew He was there and they trusted Him so don't you ever doubt that God's going to bring you out. You've got to believe it. God is not a man that He should lie. I'm telling you, you're going to be all right, just hold on and choose to believe.

RHS THANK YOU TO BRIDGETTE BENTLEY

RHS: Thank you Bridgette!

INTRODUCTION TO BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE - RHS

RHS: I know I've told you that I intend to invite the greatest preachers in the world that speak English to come and bring us their messages from Sunday to Sunday in this place. I expect to be with all of them and I want to hear them all preach because they're the world's greatest preachers. And today I'm so proud to have with us Bishop Charles E. Blake. I first met him thirty-nine years ago when I put an ad in the paper and said: "Ministers discouraged? Need enthusiasm? Come to a one day conference conducted by Robert Schuller." And 75 people came out from I don't know where and they went up to the top of that chapel and we had a good time. I had a good time to try to enthuse them, motivate them, encourage them, etc., and it was wonderful.

Today he's the presiding bishop of one of our nation's largest denominations the Church of God in Christ with over six million members. He's pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ with a membership of over twenty-four thousand people and deeply involved in the spiritual life but also eighty programs for the psychological, social and economic needs. Founder and CEO of Save Africa's Children, he oversees the support of more than one hundred thousand children in three hundred and forty orphan programs throughout more than twenty-three nations on the continent of Africa. Bishop Blake is married to Mae Lawrence Blake, they have three children, seven grandchildren and thank you for coming Bishop Blake.

BCB: I love you.

RHS: I love you, too.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE

"Overcoming Negative Circumstances & Emotions"

BCB: Dr. Schuller you don't know what an impact, what a transforming influence your life has been in the lives of so many men and women on the face of the earth. Pastors, members of church's and people who have never gone to church have been so blessed by your ministry. My life would not be as it has been if it

had not been for your influence. I came to then the Garden Grove Community Church in 1970. I pastored fifty members. We raised twelve thousand dollars over the last twelve months. My salary, the salary of all of the musicians and everyone in the church was paid out of that twelve thousand dollars, one year income for the church. I was so inspired when I came to the Crystal Cathedral. I saw possibilities and potential for my own life and I said to God, 'God if You can do this through Robert Schuller, can't You at least do something through my life?' The rest is history God has been so good to me.

My wife Mae is with me today and we want you and your wife to know that we love you with all our hearts. That there is nothing on earth that you could ask us to do that we would not be willing to do for you. So with joy in my heart I left my congregation and said to them get by the best way you can. I'm going to go and be with my friend Robert Schuller. And what an honor it is to be in this place. You have one of the greatest Christian leaders on the face of the earth as your leader. Dr. Robert Schuller.

I'm going to talk to you today about overcoming negative circumstances and negative emotions. Overcoming negative circumstances and negative emotions. I want to read from the eighteenth Psalm starting with verse one: "I will love You oh Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. My God, my strength in whom I will trust. My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised and so shall I be saved from my enemies. The pangs of death surrounded me and floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me. The snares of death confronted me and in my distress I called upon the Lord and called out to my God. He heard my voice from His temple and my cry came before Him even to His ears."

One of the most important abilities that a person can have is the ability to endure and to rise above negative circumstances and negative emotions. Now all of us are familiar with the influence of circumstances. We frequently predict the potential success of a venture based on the circumstances that surround the endeavor. Circumstances are the criteria for the success of the endeavor. And a common excuse for failure is that it was due to circumstances beyond our control. So many are more intent on changing their circumstances than they are on dealing with themselves and preparing to deal with the circumstances. For them circumstances are the primary thing. And so you hear it every day. If I just lived in a different town, if I had a different house, a different apartment. I need to get away from my family. My husband, my wife is just dragging me down, I'm tired of my neighborhood, I'm tired of my job, I need a change in circumstances.

But it was Samuel Lover who said, "Circumstances are the rulers of the weak. But they are the instruments of the poor." And Napoleon said, "Circumstances, I make circumstances." The same circumstances that can destroy one person can make another person. Arnold Twinby said, "Great civilizations are not born in circumstances where everything is nice and comfortable. But rather in environments that are unusually difficult." Thus it is not the circumstance that is the important thing, it is ones response to his circumstances that are the important thing.

Let's also say a few words about negative emotions. Frequently our emotions are based on and wedded to our circumstances. And our conscious feelings, our psychological reactions are based on our real or imagined perception of our environment. Thus one would be afraid or angry or distressed because of the things that were happening in their vicinity. But there are some who are troubled emotionally despite their good environment. They enjoy a high level of prosperity

then they've ever known. Physically they are reasonably secure and healthy, but still they are plagued by negative emotions. So many people today are sorrowful, distressed, fearful and they have no idea why they feel the way they feel. Their emotions have made life almost unbearable for them. The bible says in Proverbs eighteen and fourteen, "the spirit of a man will bear his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear?" So many are incapacitated in their ability to respond to their challenges and to their difficulties because they are wounded on the inside and they cannot rise above their predicament.

Let's take a look at some of the circumstances that David faced in Psalm eighteen. And the first thing that he says about his circumstance is that there were enemies in his environment. Saul hated him because of his skill in warfare and because of his popularity. Saul hated him because God had chosen David to be king instead of Saul. The Philistines hated him because he killed their champion, the giant Goliath. Some people hated him only because they found out that Saul hated him. And then other people hated him for no particular reason, they just hated him. You know that people don't really need a reason to hate you or to be your enemy? If you live you will have enemies. But even more don't be prominent, don't have special skills, don't be successful, don't do anything outstanding or progressive. Don't take an unpopular point of view because if you do you will be hated. And you will have enemies. But not only were enemies a prominent aspect of David's environment, he says that floods of ungodliness, floods of ungodly men were all around him. And a predominance of ungodly men would make life much more difficult especially if you were striving to live a life of integrity and a life of righteousness. His was the wicked and a dangerous world.

David also says that he was surrounded by unpleasantness and by pain. He says that he was compassed about by the sorrows of death and hell. In every direction that he turned he was confronted by the threat of death. And the King James Version of this particular Psalm says that David was prevented. He was unable to reach his objectives. He was unable to reach his goals. In every direction that he turned there was something that would hinder him and that would block his way.

For some of you today, that is the story of your life. Every time your objective has been within your reach something has happened that prevented you from reaching your objective. David was also confronted by some very unpleasant emotions. He mentions in this Psalm fear and sorrow and distress. Certain things made David afraid. And people are afraid about many things today. They are afraid regarding the stability of their marriage. They're afraid because of their concern for the welfare of their children. They are afraid about insecurity on their job. They're afraid about economic conditions, conditions in their community, relationships, personal welfare and safety. There are some who don't know what they are afraid of. In this turbulent world you need to know who God is, how God feels about you and what God can do in your life.

In the space of three short verses, David made several significant observations about his God. He calls God his strength. He calls God his rock, his fortress, his deliverer, his shield, his stronghold and he says that God is worthy to be praised. And so David might well have addressed these words not only as a prayer to God, I will love you, oh Lord, but he addressed them as a statement to himself and as a challenge to his circumstances and to his emotions.

Oral Roberts once said, "Stop telling God about your terrible problem mountains and start telling your mountains about your God, your great God, your mighty God." God is our refuge. God is our strength. God is a very present help in trouble therefore, will not we fear. For those of you who face bad circumstances, for those of you who nurse an emotionally wounded spirit, the text offers for us a

strategy. It sets forth a proper response to our negative emotions and to our negative circumstances.

The text proposes four significant keys to victory and you will note that each of these keys will begin with the word "I will." And the fourth one starts with the word "so shall I be saved" in other words "I shall be saved." This implies personal decisiveness. It implies an act of the will. Don't just stand there and be destroyed. Don't just stand there and be defeated. Exercise your will. Act, move, decide, determine that you will rise above your circumstance.

I had a friend who said when the going gets tough the tough get going. You may have met him at one time or another. And so the text says in Psalm 18 and 1, "I will love you, oh Lord my strength." And that's key number one. I will love you, oh Lord. To love God is an appropriate response to God because love is the predominant sentiment and commitment that God has toward us. The apostle Paul says that loving God will have a creative and synthesizing effect upon your life. For in Romans 8 and 28, Paul said, "For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Loving God, pursuing God's purpose will summons the power of God to so organize and synthesize your life that it will work together for your good.

And then in Psalm 18 in verse 2, David said, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my strength in whom I will trust." And that's key number two. I will trust God.

Our strongest institutions are failing us. There is no clear solution to the dilemma that our nation or the nations of the world now face. The people and the organizations that we trusted most have proven unworthy of our trust. If you don't trust God you will be overwhelmed by worry and by fear. If you trust God you will overcome worry and fear. The struggle of life is great enough without having to bear the added burden of worry and fear.

I was a tired traveler in a hotel in a city far away. Riding the elevator up to my room I had heavy luggage in both of my hands; A heavy suitcase on the right, another on the left. So there I stood riding the elevator carrying my heavy luggage when a thought came to me and the thought was this: put the luggage down. The elevator can carry both you and your luggage. I put it down and I arrived at my floor less burdened and less weary than I was before. Put your worry down. Put your fear down. God can carry both you and the things that you worry about. The bible says cast all your care on Him because He cares for you. You're perplexed, you don't know what to do, the world seems to be falling apart, trust God. God will lead you through this. He will lead you out of this. I will trust God. And then in Psalm 18 and verse 3 David says, "I will call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised." That's key number three.

We've got to work as if it all depended on us but then we've also got to pray as if it all depended on God. When we invite God into our lives we must allow Him to take charge of our lives and we must submit to the will of God. He may not answer as we expect or when we expect but God said call unto Me and I will answer you and I'll show you great and mighty things that you do not know. Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pains we bear all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Key number four is also found in Psalm 18 verse 3. The psalmist says, "So shall I be saved from my enemies." I shall be saved. I shall survive this, I will be rescued, I will come through this. This will not destroy me. Whatever it is that you are confronted by, whatever it is that you are dealing with say to yourself I will survive this. I will come through this. This will not destroy me. The psalmist makes this prediction based on his effective use of the first three keys. He said if I

trust God, if I love God, if I call upon the Lord I shall be saved. Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth neither faints nor does He grow weary. His understanding is un-searchable. He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youth shall faint and be weary and young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord, they that trust in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up on wings as eagles, they will run and not be weary, they will walk and not faint.

David said "I should be saved." But this is more than just an analytical prediction, it is a statement of determination and a statement of commitment. It is a statement of firm resolve. It's a proclamation that he will not be defeated by negative circumstances and by negative emotions but rather he will overcome them and he will march on to victory.

My friend, God will not allow you to be confronted by anything that you and He cannot handle together. If you confront it with God's help you can deal with it. He will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but He will with the temptation make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it. You can deal with it. You can bear it. You can endure it and you will come through it. Paul said I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me. The biblical character Job experienced the disintegration of everything he loved on the earth. Everything he loved on earth turned to vapor before his very eyes, but Job said in Job 23 and 10, "He knows the way that I take and when He has tested me I shall come forth like gold." I'm going to come through this, I'm going to deal with this, I'm going to overcome this and I hope that some of you today will say whatever you are dealing with I will come out of this and I'll come out not with a whimper or a sigh but with a shout of victory. This tough time will not defeat me. This tough time will not cause me to surrender.

I pray that every one of you will love God. I pray that you will trust God as you focus on loving God trusting Him and calling on Him. The things that you are worried about will fall back further and further into the distance and your focus will be on God. I pray that you will accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and as your Lord. I pray that you will live abundantly not only now, but throughout all eternity. Don't give up. Don't throw in the towel. You are a miracle getting ready to happen. The moment you give up might have been the moment of your victory. I read about a prospector years ago staked a claim. Worked his claim, dug for gold for one solid year. At the end of that year with disgust he threw the shovel down and said I'll not work another day and walked away from his claim. Another man came, stood in the same place, picked up the same shovel, drove it into the same ground and struck gold. If the man before him had only waited one more day or tried one more time all of his dreams would have been fulfilled. Don't give up. I see your future and it looks much better than it looks right now. I see you in the future and you look much better than you look right now. Love God; trust God, call on God; you shall be saved.

ANTHEM (REPRISE) - "Total Praise"

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.

BENEDICTION - RHS

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 may God give you peace in your going out and in your coming in, 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 stand all alone in front of Jesus and give you peace forevermore, Amen.