

HOPE OF POWER OF 14.02.2010

OPENING SENTENCE - RHS

RHS: This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: You know James Brown from the CBS NFL Today program, but today on the Hour of Power, James will share the most important thing in his life: his faith in God.

JB: We know that life will bring with it trials and tribulations, as well as successes but it's what foundation are you standing on.

VO: Also today, solo artist David Phelps performs his amazing song of faith, "The Singer."

DP: And let there be joy and echoes of laughter, and the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the redeemed.

VO: Then get ready as Dr. Robert Schuller motivates you to make 2010 the greatest year of your life.

RHS: Thing bigger! Think longer! Think deeper. Enlarge the place where your tent stands.

VO: If you need a lift today, you've tuned to the right program. 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!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Good morning! And to all of you who are listening in Hong Kong or Moscow or wherever you are, come in. Look, listen, we are one family of God and boy we always have good news, and I do today, thank you. Now turn around and shake hands with somebody behind you or on either side, shake hands and say God loves you and so do I.

This is the day that God has made! We're going to rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – Great is Your Faithfulness/Cares Chorus"

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 endureth; 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, Lord, unto me.

BETH: Our God is faithful. If you've come today carrying burdens that have kept you awake all night, leave them in His hands; Our God, who's never changed, and whose compassion never fails. Sing with us.

I cast all my cares upon You. I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet and anytime that I don't know what to do I will cast all my cares upon You.

I cast all my cares upon You. I lay all of my burdens down at Your feet and anytime that I don't know what to do I will cast all my cares upon You. And anytime that I don't know what to do I will cast all my cares upon You. On You.

SCRIPTURE – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. Listen to the words of sacred scripture. I'm reading from St. Paul, as recorded in the second book of Corinthians, chapter nine verses 6-12. Paul is writing.

Remember this: remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but it is also overflowing and many expressions of thanks to God.

And this is the word of the Lord, Amen.

ANTHEM - "How Glorious is Your Name"

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name through all the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your name throughout the earth!

Your glory adorns the heavens above, displayed in the dawn as it breaks through the clouds. The voices of children chanting proclaim Your glory and Your splendor, and silence Your foes, and silence Your foes.

When I behold the heavens, the work of Your hands, the moon and the stars You have set in place; Who are we.. who are we.. who are we that You are mindful of us, and our children, that You take care of them?

You have made us a little lower than the angels; And adorned us with glory and honor. You have given us dominion over Your handiwork. You have laid the world at our feet.

All the animals that roam the earth, the birds of the sky, the fish of the sea, whatever travels the ways of the water, all are gifts, all are gifts, all are gifts from You.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your Name throughout the earth! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious, how glorious is Your Name throughout the earth! O Lord!

SSC THANK YOU TO CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

SSC: Thank you choir and orchestra.

INTERVIEW – JAMES BROWN

SSC: SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN JB: JAMES BROWN

SSC: You know here in Crystal Cathedral Ministries, we have had the privilege and the honor of being able to introduce to you at home and here in the Crystal Cathedral some amazing men and women who have displayed heroic faith in their life. And today is no exception. I'm so excited to introduce him to you and his name is James Brown. Please welcome with me, James Brown. James, come on up.

JB: Good to be here, Miss Coleman. Thank you so very much.

SSC: God bless you.

JB: And God bless you, as well.

SSC: It's so good to have you here.

JB: Good to be here. I can't help but smile every time I hear the name James Brown. I guess I'm expecting somebody to dance across the stage, but that's not me.

SSC: No its not you. Let me just tell everybody a little bit who you are because they would know you, millions of sports people know you from Sunday, if they're watching CBS' NFL Today..

JB: Yes ma'am.

SSC: Is that correct?

JB: That's correct.

SSC: Or Showtime's Inside the NFL.

JB: Keeping pretty busy but I'm enjoying it and I thank the good Lord for the blessing, rest assured.

SSC: Yes, and you've written a book called The Role of a Lifetime: Reflections on Faith, Family and Significant Living. I had a wonderful time reading the book, getting the chance to know you a little better. And let's see, an ordained minister, the oldest of five children, born..

JB: We'll hide that fact, though but go ahead..

SSC: ..born in 1951..

JB: ..yes.

SSC: ..graduated from high school in 1969 and college in 1973.

JB: Yes ma'am.

SSC: I love the first part of your book, how it opens up with you had lived your life for a dream; the dream of being an NBA basketball player. And there you were drafted, and you thought this is it. Your dream had come true. So tell us a little bit about what happened with the Hawks.

JB: Well despite the size in girth that you see right now, I was a pretty slender player back in the day, but I did have the opportunity to be drafted by the Atlanta Hawks in the NBA and worked very hard the summer before in preparation for training camp. I thought I was going to make the team. I'd been told by some of the veterans you're playing extremely well. Just continue to hit the grindstone and things will work out well. But it didn't happen, I got cut. And it hurt, Miss Coleman. I cried, went home, hid in the house for about two weeks because I felt that I was a failure, a disappointment when this was supposed to happen. But when I stopped to think why it didn't happen, one painful lesson became very clear, and it was a lesson that my high school coach Morgan

Wootten had taught us, that there is no such thing as standing still. You're either getting better or you're regressing. And during the four years in college, I didn't work as hard to stay on top as I did to get to the top. And I vowed I would never, ever allow an opportunity that I wanted to pursue to pass me by because I wasn't properly prepared. And that's the attitude and the work ethic I've maintained.

SSC: Well I just loved your candor in the book because there's so many of us, me included, who we work for a dream and we give it everything we've got and then we find out that that door has closed and that sense of failure and that sense of now what. You know there you were, a young adult. How did you pull yourself up? How did you get yourself back on your feet, I mean because you're a tremendous success today, you know?

JB: I did adhere to that work ethic that I mentioned before but I soon realized that there was a lot more to it than just having a very strong work ethic. I was a baby Christian at that point in time, my sister Alicia and my mother, God bless her, were very much the leaders in the family in terms of helping us to understand the role that faith played in our lives, and once I was blessed to be in a church that was a good bible teaching church, understanding how to rightly divide the word, I realized that the foundation had to be on the rock, Christ Jesus, and once I did that, those foundational principles are the ones upon which I built and stood on everything else that I've pursued in the game of life.

SSC: Yes, I loved this one chapter title. It was "The Foundation Determines the Height."

JB: Very strong.

SSC: Very strong and you don't talk about, when you talk about foundation, can you define that for us?

JB: Yes at our church at Rhema Christian Center Church our Bishop, Bishop Clarence Givens wanted all of us to make certain that we understood what the foundational principles for the faith were. We had to go through catechism, if you will, so that was what was very important. When I was working at FOX NFL Sunday out here in Los Angeles, I heard a sermon delivered by Bishop Charles Blake, and it was entitled..

SSC: Yes, good friend of the ministry.

JB: .."Depth Before Height," and Miss Coleman, it was so applicable because borrowing from the language of architecture and building, and we look at a wonderful magnificent edifice and how its able to stand sturdily and withstand all the wind and rain beating against it, symbolic for what we go through in life, its only because of the foundation, the rock upon which it is rooted, and that rock of course is Christ Jesus. So I decided to embrace that and apply that in everything that I was doing because we know that life will bring with it trials and tribulations as well as successes, but it's what foundation are you standing on.

SSC: That's great. Wonderful. It's just a great, great principle that we need to hear and especially young people, I think, need to hear it more and more that to build that foundation. And you have a strong educational foundation.

JB: Yes ma'am.

SSC: I mean you're an alumnus of Harvard. I mean wow, what a great.. I mean to me, I'm jealous of that. I just think it's awesome that you got to graduate from such a prestigious educational institution.

JB: You and I were talking about a mutual friend, Dr. Ben Carson, and all that he's been blessed with in life as well, too, and my mother was very much like Mrs. Carson as well. She and my father, God bless them, had high school educations, but I'm fond of saying they had PhD's in common sense and determination and passion. And my mother and father helped us always

understand that the key for success in the game of life is having an excellent education.

SSC: Yes.

JB: And even though there may be others who are more gifted naturally, there's no excuse for not working hard and I was blessed to be able to go to a great school.

SSC: Yes and you also talk in your book about, you say you're a self professed mama's boy.

JB: Oh without a doubt. Well you know because I saw how mom sacrificed for us in the family. Mom always wanted to be an excellent homemaker and she exceeded that objective. Five kids, I'm the oldest as you mentioned before of five, and I saw how she sacrificed for us, and on her death bed, what she had indicated was that everything I had to give you guys, I gave you in life, and what's most important was me giving you Jesus.

SSC: That's wonderful.

JB: And that's all that matters to me, so yes, I am a self professed mama's boy and will proclaim it loudly and proudly.

SSC: Yes and to all my boys out there, my four sons, it's okay to be a mama's boy.

JB: Absolutely, absolutely. A number of athletes are too, no matter how big and strapping they may be on the playing field and the basketball court, many of them will acknowledge that as well.

SSC: Yes, that's awesome. I loved in your book where you talked about success and significance because they are not the same. In fact my dad wrote a series and a book called Beyond Success to Significance. So talk about that, James.

JB: Well, you know Miss Coleman, I know that the foundational scripture for me in understanding what success is, is in Joshua 1:8. And I know you know it all too well, but essentially it talks about how this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth but thou shalt meditate therein day and night to observe to do according to all that's written within, and then thou may have a good success that will make their way prosperous and have..

SSC: That's right.

JB: ..good success.

SSC: That's right.

JB: And I'm thinking wait a minute, why would you emphasize success. Isn't all success good?

SSC: That's right.

JB: I know the worldly success is in the accumulation of things, the abundance of things. God talks about that eternal kind of success, laying up for things that have eternal weight and value. So that's what I've been about pursuing and even with the book, Role of a Lifetime, its about esteeming others above myself, finding out what your role in life is. We're all given a role to play and if we listen to God, He will tell us what that role is, and that to me is wonderful because in my avocation, which is in broadcasting, I want others to look good. If I make them look good, then we all look good. In the game of life it is to be able to stand before Him, God Almighty, to hear the most important words, well done thy good and faithful servant.

SSC: Yes. Amazing. So the JB Awards. You must be proud of what you're doing there.

JB: You know I guess that speaks to also having been around for a little while when they name some awards after you right? But I've been pairing

with the NFL players association at the invitation of the Miss Pat Allen many years ago, and Howard Skall to work with raising funds by recognizing athletes who work significantly and diligently to strengthen families and communities where they play football. And these guys are doing it all for the right reasons. They don't want really any public accolades, but they do it because we raise funds for Special Olympics in DC.

SSC: Wonderful.

JB: And we've been blessed over the last three years to raise a million dollars for Special Olympians and I thank God for the blessing of that, because now we want to do more. We want to partner like with Ben Carson and his Carson Scholars fund and other worthwhile organizations that are doing things to strengthen people.

SSC: Wonderful. And you're a grandpa.

JB: Oh! Proudly so.

SSC: Grandpa James.

JB: It took awhile to accept that because you know the guys on the television set couldn't wait to call me grandpa but when you hold God's little gifts in your hands, my 23 month old, our granddaughter Kayla, and a three month old granddaughter Jordan, let me tell you, they can call me anything they want because I'm in love with those girls.

SSC: Oh. James, you close your book with a tribute to your mom. You want to tell us about it?

JB: Well you know mom; I get emotional when I talk about mom. She went home to be with the Lord three years ago this past June, but Miss Coleman when she embraced the Lord, when she accepted Jesus into her life, it was all about Jesus. Whenever we would go to her to ask for advice, what her opinion on something was, she would always remark well I don't have an opinion. Let's go to the word of God and see what He has to say about it. And she showed me and many others in how she handled her dying from the ravages of diabetes the last six months of her life, in the last six weeks she was in a coma, she never once complained. Her hospital room always had scriptures around the walls. She embraced it and lived it. She was still dispensing advice, even with the hospital workers, those who may have had challenges in their own lives, or in their work relationships, she loved to call herself the Titus woman. She was passing along Godly principles to them.

SSC: Wonderful.

JB: So I am indebted to my mother because she showed me more about how to live in how she handled her dying than anyone I have ever met.

SSC: Now James as we close, you didn't know I was going to ask you to do this..

JB: Okay.

SSC: ..but I want you to look right out to that camera there and I want you to just give a message to the young people of today. What is it that you want them to hear the most from you? Give them a little one/two minute message right there to that camera.

JB: Wow, you know one of the things I realize in my journey in life is that all truth is parallel, that which is true in the natural is also true in the supernatural. We all work for bosses here, whether you're in school, you want to get good grades by virtue of a good report card. When we're in the world of work, we want to hear from our bosses that we've done well and get a promotion. Well in the supernatural, the same occurs. There is a time coming when we will stand before the ultimate boss, God Himself, Jesus Himself, to hear played back to us

what we've done and whether or not we've met the mark. That is the most important thing to be working for. Again, as I mentioned to Miss Coleman, because at the end of the day we all want the promotion but we want to hear it from His lips: well done thy good and faithful servant.

SSC: Thank you James. I am so proud to call you my friend.

JB: Thank you.

SSC: Give you a holy hug, as you call it.

JB: Yes ma'am, yes ma'am.

SSC: And people, it is inspirational, it is motivational, and most of you know a man in your life that would really be inspired by it and it's a wonderful, wonderful message. Thank you.

JB: God bless you, Miss Coleman.

SSC: Thank you James.

JB: That's the best endorsement not being a sports fan.

HYMN - "Medley – From All Who Dwell/Count Your Blessings/Holy, Holy, Holy"

From all who dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

When upon life's journey you are stressed or tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings see what God has done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the work seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly and you will be singing as the days go by. Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings see what God has done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God has done. Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty! All Your works shall praise Your name in earth and sky and sea. Holy! Holy! Holy! Merciful and Mighty! God in three persons blessed Trinity.

RHS INTRODUCES DAVID PHELPS

RHS: Now it's my privilege to welcome back to the Crystal Cathedral, multi Dove and Grammy award winner David Phelps. Hi David.

DP: Hello.

RHS: So great to have you back.

DP: Good to be here, very good to be here.

RHS: And what are you thankful for this year?

DP: Well of course it's always family is at the top of the list for me and my family prayed through a diagnosis and treatment of cancer for my sister this year and she is now cancer free and I have to say thanks for that, you know. God is good.

RHS: What are you singing for us today?

DP: It's a song I wrote called "The Singer" and the lyric talks about how God has intervened into His own creation.

RHS: David, of course I heard you sing at the first service and it's wonderful.

DP: Thank you.

RHS: It isn't often that people applaud standing on their feet at the end of a solo. They did for you this morning. So sing for us now.

DP: Thank you.

SOLO – DAVID PHELPS – “The Singer”

The music began at His command, and the Singer drew His breath. The melody rose and dawned on the land and pierced the emptiness. And from a barren and lonely place, life began to spring. As on the stage of time and space God threw back His head and began to sing.

Let there be light, invade the darkness, oh fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony and let there be joy, and echoes of laughter, and the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed.

Now beautifully sung the song went unheard and darkness returned again. But God had a plan in the second verse to win back the hearts of men. A star in the sky that night in Bethlehem and as the baby Jesus cried, God sang out His song and the angels joined in.

Let there be light! Let there be light! Invade the darkness, invade the darkness, fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony, sweet harmony and let there be joy, joy, joy and echoes of laughter. And the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed. And every time a soul receives that joyful Christmas song He rises from His throne and all creation sings along.

Let there be light, invade the darkness, oh, fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony and let there be joy, joy, joy and echoes of laughter, the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed, and the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed. Let there be light, let the song be redeemed. Redeemed! I'm redeemed of the redeemed. Oh, of the redeemed! Redeemed!

RHS THANK YOU TO DAVID PHELPS

RHS: Thank you so much. What great music we have in this church. Thank you, David.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"The Shoe Can't Tell the Foot How Big to Grow"

RHS: One of the greatest messages I've ever given. Fifty thousand leading pastors from around the world heard it. They were members of my school called Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. Many of the pastors of the largest churches today, oh like Bill Hybels or Rick Warren, came to this institute 35 years ago, 34 years ago, 33.. they came and they all heard this sentence: the shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Cause I had all these ministers. When they came, they had to fill out a questionnaire and I would pass on my critiques to them. What I think they should do or some advice for what its worth.

And I passed it on, and it's in my book, Your Church has Real Possibilities. It came when they almost all answered the question how many parking spaces do you have. And nobody had enough parking spaces. Churches up till this church really didn't bother about big parking lots. They would ask the city council must we have parking lots, how many do we need and they'd take the advice from

them. I said imagine getting the people you wish were coming to church, then how many parking spaces do you need. Don't let the parking set your leadership goals, set your leadership goals based on how much I would need to park if I had the people coming that I wish I had. At any rate, it made a difference. The shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Now that's a universal principle. You're not in a church, you probably aren't running a church, but that principle applies to you and it applies to me. We set up limits that keep God from doing the bigger thing He wants to do in our life. We can't do that.

I remember when I was going to write my first book and I remembered the one F I got in college. I don't think I've ever told you this before. It was in writing. So I wasn't a writer. Then one day I tried to practice what I preached and its this kind of stuff I'm giving you now, so I put a piece of paper and I put it in a typewriter. Looking at another one of my slogans on the wall, beginning is half done, and I'd rather attempt something great and fail than attempt to do nothing and succeed. I put in the paper and I typed out a title of a book, Move Ahead with Possibility Thinking. Man. And a publisher in a weak moment, I think, agreed to publish it. And I became a writer. And for the past two weeks, let me say, I've been writing because I'm practicing the sermon I'm preaching this morning. Stuff came out that has changed me in the last six weeks. The one line is I'll give it to you: Something is in nothing. Even though we don't understand it, probably, or believe it necessarily, say it out loud will be the first time in my earthly life I've heard anybody say it. Something is in nothing. You see it in the Garden of Eden. Nothing. But something is in that nothing. It's usually an idea. It's usually an idea that's connected to a person or an idea connected to somebody that we probably have never met. Something is in nothing. There was something in nothing before Adam and Eve were created. The something was a power, it was a presence, it was an intelligence, it was a cosmic energy. It was God.

Easy for you to believe, actually. Today you're in a generation that can believe that very easily where they couldn't a hundred, two hundred years ago. Today you can look at a room, there's nothing in there but there are voices in there. There's music in there. There are plays in there, movies in there, there's a lot in that nothingness but you need an instrument to pick it up. The TV set, computer, and so it is with a something that is in nothing. You need an instrument to pick it up. It's built within you. You have the capacity. You have to learn how to turn it on and then how to set it to the right dial. The something that is nothing is a spirit. It is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is, if you're a Christian, the presence of Christ or the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's there. But you need to have an instrument that will turn it on. That instrument was potentially created in you! Everybody has that potential. I use the word potential. What is that instrument? It's called faith. You have been born with a power to exercise a thing called faith. As far as we know, there is no other creature: fowl, animal, or fish, no other living creature has that instrument built within him. You have to turn it on.

Now for many people, they turn it off. They don't realize they are limiting God. Once a man said to me if what you say is true, why in the world didn't God give us all faith? I said He gave that instrument into every brain with the capacity, but you have to turn it on. If He gave it to you by nature like I'm hungry, it wouldn't be faith anymore. It would be a sensory science. And then it wouldn't have the power of faith. The faith has a tremendous power to built imaginary bridges and connections. Here's the Bible verse. Isaiah 54 verse 2: "Enlarge the place where your tent stands." Hear that: which means you've got ideas, you have opinions, you have interpretations, some you haven't shared, some you have. And you're

not going to share them with me; I don't need to hear it. The verb, most important word in most sentences as a writer, let me say this, are verbs. Enlarge the place where your tent stands. Enlarge it. THINK bigger! Think longer! Think deeper! Enlarge the place where your tent stands. Lengthen the cords, strengthen the stakes.

Now how do you set your goals? Set your goals by what you as a Christian should be doing. First, there are people you know that I don't know. There are people that are hurting, I don't know. There are people that are depressed and I don't know them. There are people that'll commit suicide and I don't know them. Shall I go on and on and on? If I keep going on and on, I'm going to stop with my finger pointed at you! Enlarge the place where your tent stands. Don't limit God. Don't let your success limit God. Oh I've got what I need, I've got enough, etc. Then I've got a faith, I know I'm going to heaven so that's enough. That's not enough.

Enlarge your faith. Lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes. Where are you this morning? You have a faith in God? Great. Faith in Jesus Christ? Maybe, well stop there. If you don't, go for Him. He will bring qualities to your life to say nothing of eternal salvation who preach about it all the time. You know why haven't you accepted Christ if you haven't? And if you're an agnostic or an atheist, why? It's because you have established limits, boundaries, fences on the ideas that God keeps sending to you.

There was this man I heard of when I was a student. So long ago I don't remember his name, but I heard he was a very famous preacher. And he talked about his own witness. He said I became an atheist in high school then a solid as a rock atheist in the university. These were all the brightest people in the world, and most of them didn't believe in God as far as I could tell. So I became a hardened atheist and decided I was going to spread atheism so I could enlighten and make more intelligent the people I lived with. And he said that's where I was when one Sunday morning I was out for a walk and I walked by this big church and I heard music coming out of there. So I stepped in, stood at the back. I really don't remember much about the sermon or the music, but at the end the minister said I want you to become a believer. It's just a decision. Don't debate it. Don't argue it. You'll never win the argument. Nobody will. It's got to be left in the realm of faith.

And then he said, the minister closed with prayer, I didn't close my eyes. Everybody else did and I looked around, everybody was praying. There I saw the white hair of my head of my physics department. He was famous as being the most intellectual, the most brilliant, the most talented professor of the university. He goes to church? Must be something to this or he wouldn't go to church. And after the prayer, I stared at him, his face and head went up and I saw a radiance coming out of that face, radiance I never saw in the classroom. Never saw it before. It came out of that prayer thing. And I said, must be a God. Something happened to him the last minute or two when they were praying. And then I thought I'm going to become a believer. Believers aren't crazy after all and he became a believer. Wow.

The shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Your doubts must not tell your faith how to be enlarged. Your sickness, what is it, must not tell you how long you're going to live, or how you can or cannot find healing. Leadership is the force that sets your goals. You make the decision. Don't listen to people that talked you into whatever it is that's negative. And for sure, atheism is negative. Meet Jesus Christ. Will that change me? It surely will.

I sat next to a man often in the Club meeting in Garden Grove and he and I were closest of friends. I don't think I had a closer friend there than Benny Tee. And I think in his heart he had a lot of Jesus, even though he practiced another faith. And I think all of those good qualities that were coming out of him; I think he got infected by people that believed in Jesus. Yes he was Jewish; yes his name is Benny Tee. Don't suppose there's anybody here that ever heard of Benny Tee. Anybody? I doubt it very much. He's been gone many years.

At his death, people stood up and told stories and one man told a story that topped them all. He said you know, I'll never forget the story that a few days before Christmas this guy came into Benny Tee's shoe store and he made shoes. He could create them in his mind and with leather stitches. He was known for that. This man came into the store very poorly dressed, holding the hand of a little boy that was walking odd. Obviously did not have normal feet. The man came up to put his hands, waited for Benny to come from his machine to take his order, he used his right hand and said thank you for seeing me. His right hand was closed. It was holding something. Later on when he accidentally exposed it a little, Benny Tee saw it was a ten-dollar bill. He spotted the money. The man said I've been sent here because they tell me that here in California in Orange County; Benny Tee can make shoes, any kind of shoes. See my son? Look at his feet. They're both abnormal. Born that way. These shoes are so old, I keep putting cardboard inside, the tops don't wear out. I found out you don't get holes in the top of your shoes. He's had these a long time. But I'd sure like to get him a new pair. I was told Benny Tee could make them. And you know Christmas is only a few days away. I want to give it to him for Christmas.

And it was about that point where Benny Tee saw that what was in his left hand was money, paper money, and he read the numbers one-zero. It was a ten-dollar bill. He'd usually charge from 50 to 100 dollars for custom made shoes. So he answered him, pleading father saying you know, see those shoes in the shop there? I promised them all they'd be fixed by Christmas. I don't have much time left. I hope to God I can get them fixed because they're counting on them as Christmas presents. Yes, I can fix your shoes but not before Christmas. And he sensed a dismay go over the father's face.

So the father left with the little boy. Benny worked hard and the father, hoping for a miracle, came back December 24 late in the afternoon and said by any chance? And Benny Tee said no chance. I close shop in 60 minutes. I'm still finishing the one that I promised. But come back, I'll do it for you. The man left. That night at 3:00 in the morning, his telephone rang. It was Benny Tee saying well I just finished your shoes. They're here and I'm open for you if you want to come on over. The man drove over there; brand new custom-made shoes for this disfigured and deformed feet. And he said how much will that cost me? Benny Tee said well I usually get a low of fifty dollars and a high of a hundred dollars. But he said these came pretty easy so I'll only charge you ten dollars. And the man opened his palm and there was his one and only ten-dollar bill.

Now that's Benny Tee. Don't let anything limit you from thinking bigger, thinking more generously, thinking more kindly, more Christ like. You set your goals, you make your decisions. You're the only one that can do that. And you're the only one that can say no, when the idea comes into your mind. Wow.

Never let problems, never let pain, never let hardship, never let your limitations tell you how big to think. The shoe must never call the foot and tell him how big to grow. Let's pray: Oh God, You brought us here and this is the place where You've chosen to communicate and make believers out of people that listen to this from these pews, or from television sets from Russia to China and

only You know where. Oh God, we're stepping in new shoes today. We look at what we've limited, why we've limited them, and we heard You speak to us in Your own words from the Holy Bible when You said enlarge the tent. Lengthen the cords. Strengthen the stakes. We are. Hallelujah, 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, whatever may come I'll taste, even now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home. Singing 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 power to think bigger than you ever thought before. May God give you power to find gain in your pain. May God give you the power to turn your hurts into halos and may God give you peace wherever you are, Amen.