

HOUR OF POWER OF 21.02.2010

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: Bruce Wilkinson, best selling author of the book The Prayer of Jabez returns to the Hour of Power to let you know that you can be a miracle for God.

BW: You know I find that people everywhere around the world wish they could find out how can I partner with God more in my life. How can I experience the supernatural in my life, not weird things, but real things?

VO: Also today, the amazing voice of Jazmin Vera.

JV: I will rise on eagles wings before my God, fall on my knees.

VO: Then do you feel like you're flying through life upside down? Then let pastor Sheila Schuller Coleman turn you right side up.

SSC: Jesus said I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe? Your dream has died but Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Do you believe?

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/INVOCATION - SSC

SSC: Today God wants you to know even if your world is turned upside down and it feels like every thing is crumbling that God wants you to soar, to soar on wings like eagles. Please turn around and shake hands with somebody and say to them, God loves you and so do I.

Lord God Almighty, we wait on You today, hoping, yes expecting You to come and not just spare us, not just save us but to launch us so that we can soar on wings like eagles, soar higher than we ever have thought possible because of You and Your power. Thank You Lord, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – Praise to the Lord/Shout to the North"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the God of creation. O my friend, praise Him for He is your health and salvation. To all who hear, now to His temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord Who in all things is always beside you. As on the wings of an eagle He surely will guide you. His own He keeps, He neither slumbers nor sleeps. Under His wings He will hide you.

BETH: Psalm 121 says when we are in trouble, look up to the source of our strength. Let us sing together.

Men of faith rise up and sing of the great and glorious King. You are strong when you feel weak in your brokenness complete. (Ladies, let's join) Shout to the north

and the south. Sing to the east and the west Jesus is Savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up women of the truth stand and sing to broken hearts who can know the healing power of our glorious King of Love. Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west Jesus is Savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up church with broken wings fill this place with songs again of our God who reigns on high by His grace again we'll fly. Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west Jesus is Savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth.

Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west Jesus is Savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth. He is Lord of heaven and earth.

SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 40 & 41 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. The scripture is found in the book of Isaiah, selections from chapter 40:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand? Who has measured the breadth of His hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in the balance? Who can fathom the spirit of the Lord or instruct the Lord as His counselor. Do you not know? Have you not heard the Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth? He will not grow tired or weary and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. So, do not fear for I the Lord am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

God bless these words of the Lord.

ANTHEM - "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"

Stand up and bless the Lord O people of God's choice. Stand up and bless the Lord, your God with heart and soul and voice. Though high above all praise, above all blessing high Who would not love God's holy name and laud and magnify.

Praise to the Living Christ! Praise to the Living Christ! Praise to the Living Christ! For God's unending love to touch our lips, our minds inspire and wing to heaven our thought, and wing to heaven our thought.

God is our strength and song, our strength and song, now is salvation ours. Proclaim God's love throughout the world with all our ransomed powers. Stand up and bless the Lord, stand up and bless the Lord your God, adore. Stand up and bless God's glorious name henceforth, forevermore. Stand up and bless the Lord. Bless the Lord!

INTERVIEW – DR. BRUCE WILKINSON

SSC: SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN BW: BRUCE WILKINSON

SSC: Now this pulpit has had some amazing men and now women stand in it, but one of them is a man that you know very, very well. Many of you have read his book, the best selling book The Prayer of Jabez as well as Dream Giver, and

others. And I'm so proud to have him here with me today. Bruce Wilkinson.
Bruce.

BW: Thank you very much.

SSC: God bless you.

BW: Thank you.

SSC: I got to tell you, I read the book The Prayer of Jabez and I read Lord increase my territory, increase my territory. Lord use me, use me, use me and you said to me just now that's all.

BW: That's a dangerous prayer to pray.

SSC: ...a dangerous prayer to pray. Look at this, I mean goodness gracious. Never, ever dreamed I'd be doing this what I'm doing. But I definitely did pray the prayer.

BW: And don't stop.

SSC: And I won't. Oh golly day. It's so scary! Isn't it scary to pray it because you kind of feel like if I do, how else can I handle any more?

BW: If you ask God to give you more territory, He'll give you more territory.

SSC: Yes.

BW: You remember that's what brought our family to Africa.

SSC: Yes, I remember.

BW: You know when you ask God to send you, please expand my territory, let me do more for You, you can't argue with what His choice is.

SSC: No, I know.

BW: And I remember trying to argue with Him. You got to be kidding. Back home The Prayer of Jabez is number one. You want me to go to Africa? Why don't you wait for a few years? And He said are we going to argue over who's in charge here?

SSC: No, no.

BW: But when God expands your territory, if you understand that the secret to that is asking Him to put His hand on you, to enlarge the work of the spirit inside of you so that you can go to places you've never imagined you'd go, you've learned that, haven't you.

SSC: Well and the thing I have learned too and you said this in the book, which is why I dared to pray the prayer, was that when God increases your territory, He also increases your resources.

BW: Yes He does.

SSC: Your spiritual resources, your ability, He never asks you to do more than He knows you're not capable of doing and He has been faithful to that. But you wrote this new book..

BW: That takes The Prayer of Jabez and turns it inside out.

SSC: You Were Born for This. Do you all want to know what you were born for? Yes.

BW: All three of them, Sheila. It's wonderful.

SSC: So You Were Born for This. Does anybody else want to know what you were born for? Okay. And I read the book this week. It's a wonderful, wonderful book, absolutely. I won't say it turned my life upside down yet, but because I haven't actually had a chance to put it into practice, but I need to and I will. But it's another dangerous book to read.

BW: It's an extremely dangerous book to read.

SSC: There should be a red caution: Warning! Warning! Warning!

BW: You know I find that people everywhere around the world wish they could find out how can I partner with God more in my life. How can I

experience the supernatural in my life? Not weird things, but real things. You know when you hung around with Jesus, no matter who He met, if the person had a need, He met the need. And whenever you found Peter and Paul, and a person had a need, they partnered with God and delivered a miracle to that particular person. And this book wasn't meant to be written. I never had that as a dream of how to explain to a person actually how do you do this?

So I studied every miracle that Christ did, and Paul and Peter, and Philip and the miracles of the Old Testament, to say when God wants to do something on earth, and intervene, He almost always needs a person. Miracles come through people. And I wanted to find out years ago if you need a miracle and God wanted to give it to you, I wanted to find out how can I be... let's say this represents the miracle you need, whatever it was. Let's say it was money.

SSC: Okay. Which I do need, by the way.

BW: You do?

SSC: The ministry does, absolutely.

BW: Okay the ministry needs some money.

SSC: It does.

BW: Okay.

SSC: Wow. Wow.

BW: I think I have some in here. I do. Is it true the ministry needs some money?

SSC: It's very true. We've been praying for money.

BW: This is everything I have, isn't it.

SSC: We've been praying for a miracle. Wow.

BW: Now you didn't know I was going to do that.

SSC: No. We did not plan this.

BW: And I wish you hadn't have said the.. but wait a minute.

SSC: Well you set it up. You said you thought I needed money, and indirectly I need money because the ministry needs money, so you did this, God did this. Right? That's what you write about, that's what the book's all about.

BW: Don't you hate when person reads your book and preaches the book at you? This book talks about how you can be a delivery agent for a miracle to somebody else, and that miracles are always based upon a person or an organizations need. Wouldn't it be something if God broke through this morning? We should tell the people this. You can just stop me if you want to here.

SSC: Okay.

BW: Okay. We were downstairs praying, and I've been in 60 countries and speaking in all kinds of churches and usually there's a prayer meeting before hand. But this morning, it was a real prayer meeting this morning. And I sensed that God wanted to do something extraordinary this morning. And I prayed, when it was my turn to pray downstairs, do you remember what I said?

SSC: I do.

BW: Oh dear. I said dear God..

SSC: I do remember.

BW: ..please send a miracle to the church this morning.

SSC: You said surprise us with a miracle.

BW: You listened more than I did. Surprise us with a miracle and it's my money is the miracle? I wonder if the Lord wants to affirm this ministry this morning in a way that's very untraditional and unexpected. There's a lot of faithfulness in this service, a lot of faithfulness over the years in this place and transitions are painful for all of us. I've had transitions, some of them were wonderful and some of them were painful.

SSC: Yes.

BW: But it's when the transition has been made that there is this vulnerable season. Now you and I have not talked about this.

SSC: No we haven't.

BW: I'm speaking out of experience here myself. When the transition has been made, and I don't know if that's proper to say that here, but I think it is.

SSC: Yes.

BW: There's a vulnerable-ness here in the leadership, not you, but there is in a transition and it surprised me Sheila that God's brought me in places where significant organizations have been in one of these transitions. I wasn't expecting this this morning. But I wonder what God wants done. Wouldn't it be something if God, oh dear, opened up the floodgates of resources this morning to this movement and gave them not just prayers, but resources so they really can soar to give the affirmation in practical terms. I know you've already given an offering. This isn't an offering. We're seeing if the Lord wants to do something extraordinary this morning. Do you sense that He does?

SSC: I absolutely do because this is His ministry. And He wants this ministry to soar.

BW: You give me freedom?

SSC: What did you just ask me Bruce? I didn't hear you over the applause and I'm afraid to ask.

BW: I said do you give me freedom to say something here.

SSC: Of course, of course I give you freedom.

BW: This is how miracles take place, by the way. Miracles take place when God has an agenda. And that when obedience precedes it and sacrifice precedes it, God often wants to affirm by bringing His presence and His affirmation to send on to the next chapter in the work of God. As I drove in here early this morning and just stopped in my car and prayed, I did. I prayed for this church, this transition and I got out and I saw that tower and I watched my eyes go right up to the heavens and I said oh that was the vision of this tower, to force people to go like this. And then I walked closer and I said this is how people must have felt when they came to the temple that Solomon built like this. Oh man. This is God's place. I'm so proud to be in God's building, because that's what this was built to do.

But now could it be, could it be that God wants to change something in this service. And as I genuinely, not for show, I'm not a person who does that, but I have committed myself if a need comes up and I can meet the need, then I shall meet the need. It's not my money anyway, it is His money and I've learned that years ago. So, what would you like to do this morning? Would you like to do something highly unusual? Would you like to respond inside of your heart and say to the whole ministry here, and to God Himself, let's put the ministry on wings like we've never seen in a service like this. That's all in your purse today.

SSC: Thank you.

BW: Therefore, for those of you. Do I have your blessing to do this?

SSC: Please, please.

BW: Oh. Oh dear, I love when God shows up. Anybody else who wants to give an offering to cause wings to soar and to affirm this service and the people behind it, and to set the ministry internationally on a stronger basis as they begin the year, then come forward and just throw the money on the floor, there, there, there.

SSC: Wow.

BW: Now.

SSC: Thank you.

BW: If we can have some quiet music in the background, I think the spirit of God is going to do something this morning. Lord in heaven, we just are humbled this morning. This is not in anybody's agenda, nor do we want to be misunderstood by a single person here.

SSC: That's right.

BW: This ministry is not all about money, its all about You. And now we ask the holy spirit to fill this room..

SSC: Yes Jesus.

BW: ..with His presence, with a sweet freedom to give with joy, with hilarity, with openness. Lord God, may some people in this room write very large checks to the ministry. Lord, I'm praying for somebody in the room to pray and have You lead them to give a gift of \$100,000. Lord, we need some large gifts. I pray you'd move on a family who's been ministered all these years to write a very large check. Lord, may there be sacrifices, may many of us who have given as I have this morning, everything that we have in our pocket. Lord, release us, we pray.

This is an affirmation, you know. This is a public affirmation from the Lord to you. Yes, but it is. Look at them.

SSC: Thank you.

BW: You know this shows the heart of the church this morning. There are some churches I've been in that the love of money rules the church. And it's not the way it is here. This is an international ministry. I traveled all over the world and when I happened to mention I know Dr. Schuller, it's like Sheila, "you've met him before?" The ministry goes all over the world.

I want to close just my interruption in your service, Sheila, by saying this to all of you. I was just speaking for a ministry at a weekend where they were asking for funds, and they were a ministry full of integrity for the Lord, and I said to them ; they had 30 couples in the room . And I said to them why doesn't somebody here give a million dollars to them. Why doesn't somebody else give a large gift cause we need large gifts, not just smaller ones and that afternoon a man comes up and says okay, our family, God asks us to give this and it was a million dollar check. And then that night an older lady comes up and she says I got sick, I couldn't attend the meeting and I need to hear a little bit, so she sat down with myself and another person and she heard about the dream of the vision and she said you know, we're supposed to give more money. I said that would be wonderful. And she said I have an estate. I was going to give it all to a hospital, but instead I'm going to give this organization half of it and I said to her how much do you think that would be and she said that's about four million.

SSC: Wow. Wow.

BW: Now may there be, may there be somebody that this place has meant a lot to you over the years, that's your turn to give something very significant.

SSC: I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

BW: Thank you Sheila. Bless you.

SSC: We have needed. Because I know that this was sacrifice for many of you. We are here for you. We love you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Jazmin?

SOLO – JAZMIN VERA – "I Will Rise"

There's a peace I've come to know though my heart and flesh may fail. There's an anchor for my soul I can say it is well. Jesus has overcome and the grave is overwhelmed. The victory is won. He is risen from the dead.

And I will rise when He calls my name. No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings before my God fall on my knees and rise, I will rise.

And I hear the voice of many angels sing worthy is the Lamb. And I hear the cry of every longing heart worthy is the Lamb. And I hear the voice of many angels sing worthy is the Lamb.

And I hear the cry of every longing heart worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.

I will rise when He calls my name. No more sorrow, no more pain. I will rise on eagles' wings. Before my God fall on my knees and rise, I will rise, I will rise.

SSC THANK YOU TO JAZMIN VERA

SSC: Thank you Jazmin. Thank you Marc, orchestra, Steve. Thank you so much. God bless you. We will rise! That's the message.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN

"Flying Right-Side Up When the World's Upside Down"

SSC: Well my message today "Flying Right Side up in an Upside Down World." You can soar. Today I'm going to teach you how to fly. I'm going to teach you how to soar effortlessly, counting on God to right your flight.

Now you know, vacations for those of us who have little ones, young parents with a lot of children, vacations can sometimes be more trouble than they're worth. Do I get an amen? And my husband and I, we had our boys in very quick succession, try saying that five times fast. But we decided, I thought where can I go, what can I do where mom also gets vacation and I also get some time to rest. And I thought Hawaii. Hawaii here we come. And I thought it'll be a challenge to get there, but at least the boys can play in the sand underneath a palm tree and it'll be peaceful and restful.

So we saved our money, we decided not to buy tickets for the two youngest. Jason was three, Chris was one and Scott was a baby. We decided we'd hold Chris and Scott on our laps, buy a seat for Jason and then we would take Auntie Phyl with us. Auntie Phyl is short for Aunt Phyllis and she was my husband's aunt. She was never married, never had children and we thought well we'll take Auntie Phyl along. She'll enjoy Hawaii and of course I selfishly was thinking and I'll have some help. I'll have another pair of hands to help me with these three little boys.

So we got packed up, we got to the airport. Well we got on and no sooner were we on and of course first they said those of you with children get to board first and I was like hurray! Finally! And I'm thinking gosh Sheila, that's kind of stupid. That just means you get to sit on the plane longer than everybody else. But of course I wasn't thinking very clearly at that time, I was a frazzled young mom and got on the plane and as people were coming, you know how they are. They go down those aisles, it's tight and they're waiting and they're impatient and of course that whole plane was full of grumpy people and grumpy flight attendants. And Jason spilled his Lego's into the aisle and we're trying to gather them up as quickly as we can and the flight attendant says "can you please keep your".. of course we know, we know. Give us a chance.

Those boys were yelling and screaming. Not Jason. He's here. He was a good boy. His two younger brothers who aren't here, no they were trouble, let me tell you. And so any rate, we had our hands full and I think today we probably would have been bumped off the plane by one of those flight marshals or whatever they

call themselves. But people were still coming down, putting their luggage in the overhead compartments. And first of all, you have to understand the arrangement. There were three seats and three seats. So there was Auntie Phyl, Jason, Jim with Chris, big Chris. He was 10 4 at birth. Chris at one, in front of me and I'm right behind him holding Scott. So I'm kind of out of the loop but I'm trying to make sure my family's okay, watching from behind. And I hear Auntie Phyl push the call button for the flight attendant. Mind you people are still putting things in their overhead compartments. She says "I would like a drink." A drink? A drink? I've never seen Auntie Phyl drink before in my life. Maybe she's nervous. I don't blame her. I mean there had been a two hour delay, grumpy people, and maybe she's scared to fly. I thought oh my goodness, I didn't know. Maybe she's scared to fly.

Now my husband told me after the first service, be sure you tell everybody, Sheila, it was just wine. Well, a drink is a drink. Right? And a half hour into this flight, Auntie Phyl pushed that call button again. She sure did. And that flight attendant came over and I heard Auntie Phyl say "I'd like a drink." Two drinks? One half hour? Oh my gosh. I'm really nervous. I'm thinking she's not going to be any help! In fact I'm feeling now like I've got four kids, not three. But things settled down and we were off to paradise.

About half way there, about two and a half hours into the flight, I see the flight attendant coming back to this row in front of me again, and I thought oh here we go again. Is Auntie Phyl called for another drink? Like I say, I've never seen her drink before or since. But it wasn't. The flight attendant actually didn't look grumpy at us like she had been every other time. I heard her say to my husband, I couldn't hear what he said, but she said "well sir," very concerned, "I'll go ask the captain." She turned, walked towards the cockpit. I tapped Jim on the shoulder; I said "what's going on?" He turns his head over as far as he can and he says "half my face is frozen." Half your face is frozen? "Yes. I can't blink this eye and I can't smile. Only this side goes up and only this eye blinks. Half my face is frozen." I thought oh my gosh. I'm halfway up, who knows where, above the Pacific Ocean with an aunt who doesn't know too much about children and has had a couple drinks, and three babies and a husband whom I'm afraid has had a stroke.

She comes back and she said "the captain wants to know do you want to turn around and go back?" I thought of all these grumpy people who'd waited for two hours, who are not happy with us already and can you imagine if they said oh by the way, we're going back to LAX because this family up here wants to go back. I tapped him on the shoulder, I said "no, no, no, we are not turning around, we are going forward."

Well she said "I'll let the captain know." So she went back and pretty soon she came back with a smelling salt from the captain and she said "try this. Sometimes that works." So he broke the smelling salt and sniffed this pungent odor and the vapors apparently eased whatever was going on up in his sinus cavities and full smile. Great, nothing wrong, but by this time we were soaring and we went on to paradise and had a wonderful vacation.

Maybe you feel stuck, frozen in space, not knowing where to turn, but worse than that, maybe your life has actually been turned upside down. Maybe your mortgage is turned upside down and you paid more for your home than its worth today. Maybe your relationships: marriage, relationships with children is turned upside down. It's not what you thought it would be. There's a rupture there. Maybe your dreams have turned upside down. Everything you worked for, thought for, planned for isn't coming out the way you thought it would, and you're looking at

being laid off. Maybe you've been laid off. Maybe your job has come to a screeching halt. Your world is turned upside down. Maybe your health is turned upside down and the doctor gave you news to start the new year, the new decade. Not good news and your world is turned upside down. Well what happens if you're flying upside down. You know our world can be turned upside down, but that doesn't mean we have to fly upside down. We have the choice how we're going to respond, how we're going to react. We don't have to become depressed, discouraged, fearful, fretting, anxious. Really Sheila? Are you living my life? Well, no but I talk to enough of you to know how hard it is today. But I also know that God is big enough to carry you through whatever you're going through and that you can even soar through it.

Let's just look at airplanes for a little bit, and of course I don't know anything about airplanes. I had to look this up. But did you know that planes were not made to fly upside down? Do you all believe that? Do you believe that you were made to fly upside down? No, just like planes, we were made to fly right side up. But when a plane flies upside down or inverted there's drag on those wings and if we're flying upside down, we can become dragged down. It becomes a drag on our spirits, a drag on our motivation. A plane flying upside down has a hard time getting fuel to its tank, and lubricants. You can run out of gas, you can run out of motivation. So you want to stay positive, you want to stay up, you want to let the Lord keep you turned right side up when you're flying because there is a powerful, wonderful destination awaiting you. Just because your world's turned upside down, does not mean you will not get there. You have to believe and you will and you can. And then, some of you have crashed and burned. You walked away from the accident. But you're walking wounded, and to get in a plane again is beyond what you're willing to do. It's too scary, it's too frightening, it's too hard to imagine.

Well, you know I couldn't possibly think of doing this message on flying without talking to Danny Cox. Danny Cox and his wife Teddy are members of our congregation and they're here every single Sunday. Danny was a super sonic air pilot..

DC: Yes.

SSC: ..flew supersonic jets for ten years.

DC: Yes, ten years, yes.

SSC: As a stunt pilot?

DC: Well I did air shows, yes.

SSC: Yes.

DC: Test pilot for maintenance problems and that kind of thing.

SSC: And so we spent some time this week, you were trying to help me, Danny. And you're also a motivational speaker, which people need to know very, very successful at that.

DC: Thank you.

SSC: But as we were talking what I heard was that this inverted flying is life and death.

DC: Well it is. The airplane I flew was a 1,200 mile an hour airplane, that's 20 miles per minute.

SSC: Wow.

DC: And when you get that kind of performance, you can also expect a few little problems along the way. One day I was going up through 56,000 feet at a thousand miles an hour, and I was going for 60,000. But this airplane had a real bad problem. It's called a pitch up. It would literally tumble out of the skies. And they had taught us you know the standard pitch up. I had a non standard pitch up.

And instead of going nose over tail, mine was going wing over wing. In other words, it was trying to push me out of the cockpit. And I was really concerned about it and as we started the tumble, I thought where do I go? What do I do? And that's when you say a little prayer. We called it the test pilot's prayer. It went like this: Okay God, get this thing on the ground and I'll taxi it in for You. And what I did, the message came to me: don't fight the controls. You're fighting the controls. Neutralize the controls. And I did that, and then I reached up to the handle that deploys the drag shoot out behind, that's what we normally used on landing, and I deployed the drag shoot, got the air flowing over the airplane again, and I was able to recover after we'd lost 30,000 feet of altitude. Fortunately we started at 56,000.

SSC: And not at 28,000.

DC: Right and I made it back. You know we always said that it's great if you've got the same number of landings as you do take off's.

SSC: Yes.

DC: And I did. So it worked out fine for us, but that little pause where you don't know what you're going to do, but that message comes to you.

SSC: That's right; pray and ask God and He gave you, and you waited on the Lord.

DC: Yes.

SSC: You waited on the Lord. And Teddy, you were a young wife with three little girls.

TC: I was, yes.

SSC: And your husband, your first husband was a fighter pilot in Vietnam.

TC: That's right and he was shot down in Vietnam and I was left with three little girls, ages one, five and six, to raise and I barely got out of bed the first few days after I found out the news, but it was through my earthly father who said you've got to get up, you've got responsibility's and then my heavenly father, my God, gave me all the strength I needed, was with me every step of the way, which He promised He would be and still is with me and with Danny and I every step of the way.

SSC: Yes. And God corrected your flight.

TC: Absolutely.

SSC: And He brought Danny into your life so God answered your prayers, both of your prayers when it looked like your world's were turned upside down.

TC: Righted my life yes.

SSC: He righted your life. Well thank you for sharing and being such faithful, faithful congregants.

DC & TC: Thank you.

SSC: Well, what do we do when our world is turned upside down? How do we get our flight turned right side up again? Well let me read to you from Isaiah. "But those who wait for the Lord," and this is the amplified version, so it says "those who expect, look for and hope in Him shall change and renew their strength and power, they shall lift their wings and mount up close to God as eagles, mount up to the sun. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint or become tired." Now this doesn't say that they're going to flap feverishly, it just says they lift their wings and they soar. But anybody can kind of glide, whether it be human or otherwise, eventually comes down to earth. That's the whole point is that it's coming down; it's descending, descending, descending until it gets to the ground.

But these eagles that Isaiah's talking about, they soar. And they stay up there. They're not coming down. And they're not flapping their wings. They are riding a

thermal lift. Well a thermal lift is air that has been warmed by the sun shine, and I like to think spiritually that God gives us a thermal lift when He warms our spirits through His Son-shine, S-O-N, Son-shine. And did you know the thermal lift, when it hits a mountain, it goes up. It goes up. So that means that the larger your mountain, the bigger your challenge, the more likely you are to find a thermal lift. And so if you will just wait on the Lord, pray, and lean into the thermal lift and let God carry you through your upside down times, He will right your flight.

Well you say to me, okay Sheila, I've waited. I've waited and things have gotten worse. God hasn't answered that prayer. In fact, I got the diagnosis too late. The doctor says he can't treat me now. The marriage is done. It's gone. My husband wouldn't go to counseling. I asked him to; I prayed that he would go. He wouldn't go. Now the marriage is done. It's gone. Done. My dream, my business, I've had to declare bankruptcy. The dream is done. It's too late. It's too late. Have you had this conversation with God? I asked You God months ago for help and nothing, in fact it's gotten worse. Why did You wait so long, God? Don't You love me? Don't You care? If you've had that conversation with God and I believe that there are many of you here, who if you are really honest with me, God knows you've had the conversation but you've had it, you're in good company because Mary and Martha who had wonderful relationship, a wonderful relationship with Jesus. They were like sisters to Him. They had a very similar conversation with Jesus. They would cook for Him, they would work for Him, they poured their expensive perfume on His feet, and so when their brother, their beloved brother got sick, they thought Jesus will help. Jesus will save our brother and they sent word to Him. They made sure He knew. Jesus, our brother is sick. We need You to come and make him better. Do you know what Jesus did? He delayed. He did not come when they called Him to.

And so He delayed for two days, and it's very specific in the bible that He delayed Himself for two days, so by the time He got to Mary and Martha, their brother had died. And when He came and He finally came, Martha goes running out to Him and she says why now? Why didn't You come when I called? Why did You wait? Now he's dead. You could have saved him. But You didn't come in time. Why? When I say wait on the Lord, that means sometimes you're saying to Him I am going to wait, even knowing Your time is not my time and You just might delay. And you know what Jesus said? He said, "For your sake I wasn't there so that you may believe." Can you imagine? Today you've said to God, God I need a job. I've asked You for a job, now I don't have money to pay the rent. I've asked, You've delayed, and He says to you, yes. For your sake I have not given you a job yet. For your sake I haven't answered your prayer. For your sake, you will face foreclosure so that you will believe. Does that make any sense at all? It does if you know the end of the story.

Because Jesus' delay was actually an added blessing cause then He says to her, to both Mary and Martha, He said "I am the resurrection and the life. Even though you die, you shall live." He wanted to show them that He was the resurrection and the life. And as He would demonstrate that for them, they would believe. And so He said Lazarus, come on out. And Lazarus came out.

So people of God I ask you today do you believe? Jesus said I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe? Your dream has died. But Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Do you believe. Your relationships are ruptured. Maybe that marriage is dead. But Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Do you believe? The doctor has given you a death sentence, but Jesus said I am the resurrection and the life. Do you believe?

Lord God Al mighty, even though our life' s been turned upside down, You can right the flight. Even though our life seem s hopeless, You will not let us down. You m ade us to soar. You m ade us to live victorious and to be a blessing to others, so we wait on You, knowing Your timing is always best. Trusting the delay's only increase the blessing, so we expect You to be a therm al lift, our resurrection and our life. We believe it. Thank You, Amen.

HYMN - "Shout to the North"

Rise up church with broken wings fill this place with songs again of our God who reigns on high by His grace again we'll fly. Shout to the north and the south. Sing to the east and the west Jesus is S avior to all; Lord of heaven and earth. He is Lord of heaven and earth.

BENEDICTION - SSC

SSC: May you soar. May you see His hand at work, trusting the delays are added blessing's. May He lift you on eagles wings so you will run and not be weary, walk and not faint, strengthened so you can soar, empowered by the Son. Amen.