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HOURLY OF POWER FROM JULY 4TH, 2010

Turning Your Hurts Into Halos (Robert Harold Schuller)

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION - SSC

SSC: Today God wants you to know even if your world is turned upside down and it feels like everything 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.

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 up hold you with My righteous right hand.

God bless these words of the Lord.

INTERVIEW – DR. 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 a..

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 wherever 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.

MESSAGE - ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER "Turning Your Hurts Into Halos"

RHS: I'm continuing a series of messages on the new book, Turning Hurts into Halos and if you've just joined us for the first time here on this theme, there could be no more appropriate Bible verse for the text of a morning message than the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. Yea tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me."

Pause. Take a break. Hear the question. Will the kind of faith that we're believing in today still be around 50 years from now. Or a 100 years from now. Or 500 years from now. Or a thousand years from now. Beyond a doubt, I say it will never, never die. Because the faith that we embrace deals with reality thinking. And now I refer to the title of another book, written by the man that I think is the single most influential psychiatrist in the world today. Dr. William Glasser. He had a book called Reality Therapy. He had a book called Positive Addictions and his new book is Choice Theory. What's so sensational about our faith is we prove that we are realistic in our thinking and we're not polyanna people. This faith is reality thinking. It says, "Hey! I'm gonna walk through the valley of the shadow of death."

The world that's secular doesn't want to talk about the subject. They don't even want to think about the cemeteries. They don't want to go to church on a Memorial weekend when you remember people who died. It's not the Christian

religious people. It's not the Judaic Christian people who are kidding themselves. We are reality thinkers. We know we will all go through the valley of the shadow of death. And that's okay. We're ready for it.

We are reality thinkers. And nothing can ever change the fact that human beings will always die. All the genetic engineering that you might think of. All of the scientific achievements that may be in the future will not eliminate death. It would be a mess if that were so. How would you like to live in a world surrounded by people that are 500 years old. And if the president was really good, he could never... Can you imagine how would you like to run against Abe Lincoln today? Or would you like to run for office against George Washington? God did it right when He planned life spans. There's a life span to the tree and to the flower and to the creature and to the human. The question is, how do we face death.

Here's the Psalmist. The super reality thinker. To us, to the psalmist, he did not deny the reality that a human being goes through an experience called death, but to the believer, it is a shadow. The reality is what lies beyond death. There is another life, there is a transcendent. We live in a spiritual universe. It's easy for some of the kids to symbolize that 'cause you look up in the sky and you know how many satellites are there and how many messages are there. What's in the air all around us. The songs and the music. All of the messages and music and power that is generated through invisible signals in space all around us. It's easier for you to sense that there is an almighty eternal, invisible super God there. And life is eternal and that's why when we go to the graves we remember those who have gone before. They're not dead. I cannot say it. I will not say that they are dead. They are just away.

With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand. They have wandered into an unknown land. And left us dreaming, how very fair in deeds must be since they linger there. And you, and you who the wildest yearn for the old time step and the glad return. Think of them still as the same. I say, they are not dead. They are just away. "Yea tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." Just think of those words. "Tho I walk." Not crawl, not creep, not cringe. Walk. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint."

Walk. "Yea tho I walk. Yea tho I walk through the valley." Through, not to. Not into, but through it. It's an experience which is part of the process of living. This is no problem as long as you're not afraid. He's not afraid. Listen to me, Robert Schuller. I'm not afraid either. I have never faced death like you people have that wear the uniform of our country. Never have. Almost lost a daughter, but they saved her life. Almost lost my wife, but she lived through it. They said I was 20 minutes from death when they brought me in a coma where I had been for 10 hours and rushed to an Amsterdam hospital and they shaved my hair. They pulled the skin back and they did brain surgery. And then another one eight days later. But I have not faced death like you folks have. My heart attack wasn't bad. No. But I will tell you the key word is THROUGH! Not to. Yea tho I walk THROUGH the valley. It is a valley. This doesn't mean that we're down long.

Some of you just lost a loved one. You're in the valley. Some of you, it concerns your job. You're going through it. It's not a pleasant. For some of you, it's a lab report from the hospital. You've got cancer. For others you have relatives and friends who have suffered a tragedy and you're crying with them and

there are those here today who have friends that were shot and killed in the high school the other day. And our prayers are with you.

"Yea tho I walk." Walk. "Through the valley. Through the valley. Through the valley." Yeah. Even the kids have their valleys. The adolescents. They're going through the valley. Some of those kids. Their dad and mothers got mad. They used drugs. They split. They're divorced. The innocent kid doesn't know where he's going to be living. That kid is going through a valley. Yea tho I, whatever my age, walk through the valley of the shadow. Ohhh. Ohhh. The shadow of death. Just the shadow, not the real thing.

To we who are believers, death is never really real. It's a shadow, it's a transition. The process we go through into eternal life which I truly believe in. Shadow? Guess what. That's a positive word because you know what, if you see a shadow, you can be sure there is a sun. Or a bright light. You can't make a shadow without it. There is a light behind every shadow. "Tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." There's a valley.

I gave this message a title. It's a title I borrowed from a book that's twelve years old. It's entitled, Getting Through the Going Through Stage. And I don't know where some of you are at today, but you're in a stage and you got to know that you can get through it. Yeah. And if I had the time, I'd preach a sermon with ten points, but I do want to read the ten chapters of this book, they're masterful. Ten steps as you walk through the valley. The walk, how long is it? It's ten steps.

Step 1: Look at your life positively. "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want."

Are you ready for step 2: When you're down, look up. "He makes me to lie down."

Step 3: Think of God as your partner. "He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul."

Step 4: Replace guilt with gratitude. Do some soul searching. Probably something you've done has contributed to this problem. Always does. Maybe you should have quit smoking. I don't know. Don't live with guilt. Replace it with gratitude. God wants to be with you and He'll forgive you. Now your soul is washed clean.

Take step 5: Face your fears with faith. And you will fear no evil if you've conquered the fear of death, you have conquered the mother of all fears. You can face any problem and say what's the worst that could happen. The worst that could happen is, you'll die. And if you're ready for that one, you'll live the rest of your life. Wow. With hope and love.

Step 6: Let love lighten your load. Now the load gets heavy. It's the love that really lightens the load. It doesn't necessarily perform the miracle and remove the problem, but by george it gives you the strength to keep walking through.

Step 7: Hold on to hope. "Your rod and Your staff they comfort me."

Step 8: Believe it and you can do it. Believe it and you can do it. Yes, I can get to it. I can do it. Yes, I can get through it. Yes, my life can has meaning. Yes, God still has a plan for me. Believe it and you can do it.

Step 9: Your future will be fruitful. "You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over."

Hey, optimism will come back and with it the energy of enthusiasm and then you're ready for step 10: Prepare yourself for life long fulfillment. Ten steps on how to get through the going through stage. I want to thank the author, my son, Robert Anthony Schuller. It was a best seller twelve years ago.

Oh, where are you? What is your faith. Maybe you didn't have the advantage like my son did, of growing up in a family where there was a Christian mother and a Christian father. Maybe you didn't grow up where you had a chance to go to Sunday School every Sunday of your life and have this faith become a part of your very personality so it's inextricable.

Well I want to invite you to get acquainted with One who lived two thousand years ago, His name is Jesus Christ. Now that's reality thinking. I'm not wishful thinking. There was this man named Jesus who lived two thousand years ago. He loved this Psalm 23. He lived, He died, we believe He rose again. I believe He's alive today. His name is Jesus Christ. And I invite you, start talkin' to Him, get connected. Get connected. If you're connected right, you can get through anything. Hallelujah. More next week. Let's pray:

Lord, thank You. You are our Shepherd. You are real as faith dares to face the ultimate challenge. No philosophy, no ideology, no religion, no spiritual thinking system can surpass these holy words. Hallelujah. Amen.

BENEDICTION - RHS

Oh, it's going to be a great week. I don't know what's in store for me or for you. But I'll tell you one thing, you will be led by God. May be a coincidence, chance encounter, unexpected telephone call, you ran into somebody that you hadn't seen in a long time. Probably there'll be an accident, maybe intuition, but God is guiding you every minute of every hour all through your life, and that's the truth.

So may God bless you with His peace in your going out, in your coming in. In your lying down, in your rising up. In your labor and in your leisure. In your laughter and in your tears, until you come to stand before Jesus, in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning. Amen.