

Hour of Power Deutschland  
Steinerne Furt 78  
86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96  
Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: [info@hourofpower.de](mailto:info@hourofpower.de)  
[www.hourofpower.de](http://www.hourofpower.de)

Baden-Württembergische Bank  
BLZ: 600 501 01  
Konto: 28 94 829

BAN:  
DE43600501010002894829

BIC:  
SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz  
Leenstr. 8  
8594 Güttingen  
Tel.: 071 690 07 81  
[info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch](mailto:info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch)  
[www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch](http://www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch)

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern  
Konto: 61-18359-6  
BAN:  
CH1609000000610183596

Hour of Power vom 10.06.2018

### GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: Wow. This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning, everyone.

HS: And welcome church family. We are so happy to have you with us today. You know Bobby is talking about generosity today and it made me think about how grateful I am for you, church, for you Hour of Power givers, for you large donors, for your generosity to this ministry. This is not just our ministry, it is OUR ministry, and it would not happen without you. Because of you, every single week the Lord's message goes all over the world, so thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Would you turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

BS: Let's pray: Father, thank you so much for calling us into your house, for inviting us into your home and you say to use that God, your home is our home. That you're our Father and you love us, and you're always calling us home, and you love us. And so Lord, we just receive that in Jesus' name. Thank you that we can leave our shame at the door, all of our guilt, all of our burdens, all the stuff we're worried and anxious about. Lord, you have it under control. God is good all the time. We believe it, and it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen.

### SCRIPTURE – Malachi 3:6-12 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for Bobby's message, the words of our Lord found in Malachi 3:6: I the Lord do not change. So you the descendants of Jacob are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors, you've turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord Almighty. But you ask, how are we to return? Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, how are we robbing you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse, your whole nation, because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty.

We, church, are being blessed as we give joyfully to the Lord. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – with Caitlin Leahy (CL) – Bobby Schuller (BS)

BS: I'm so excited, there's this great film called Samson. Now if you grew up in the church, Samson was probably your favorite story, if you're a little boy like me and I always wondered why it wasn't a movie, and finally PureFlix has done it. Our guest today is Caitlin Leahy, and she's going to tell us a little bit about this movie.

BS: Well Caitlin Leahy, hi. So glad you're joining us today.

CL: Thank you for having me. Happy to be here.

BS: Well this is an awesome film, first of all, and it's not often that you see a religious film with kind of that quality. It's kind of a cool thing that the White's and PureFlix is doing, but, let's just talk a little bit about the story of Samson and some of the roles that you're playing. First of all, remind us of like the story of Samson.

CL: So Samson is obviously the strong man. He has supernatural strength from God, and he's given a certain set of rules to live by in order to maintain his strength and my character Delilah is given the task to find the secret to his strength, and in doing so, in the film, she ends up having to choose between love and betrayal.

BS: Yes, great. Is there anything in the filming of this movie that kind of surprised you?

## How to Give

CL: Well I honestly didn't know much about the story of Samson and Delilah prior to filming. I knew a little bit, but everybody else seemed to know more than I did.

BS: All the boys did.

CL: And so yes, all the boys did.

BS: Kill the army with a jawbone.

CL: Exactly.

BS: It's pretty awesome.

CL: The entire process was new to me. I didn't know about the story. I learned about it as I went.

BS: I mean playing Delilah, I mean you're a Christian, right? And like your faith is super important to you. It must have been kind of weird playing Delilah, who's this kind of villain. What was that like for you?

CL: Well maybe it was a good thing that I didn't know much about Samson and Delilah because I didn't want to just play her very one dimensional. I didn't want to play her as this wicked temptress that most people know her as. I wanted her to be relatable and to humanize her, and to show that we're all flawed and that we all make mistakes, and it's in recognizing those mistakes and learning from them, that's what's important.

BS: Yes, because I think when most people read Samson, they're like oh, Delilah, I hate her. But like really it's almost like.. so are you saying like in the film you almost bring a little more sympathy to the character of Delilah, like maybe she's caught or something like that.

CL: Yes, without giving away too much, she's basically in conflict. She's between in doing what's right and doing what's wrong. And she is wicked at times, but she kind of learns from her mistakes and she regrets some of her actions.

BS: Do you think, or at least in your interpretation of the story, do you think Delilah really loved Samson?

CL: I think so. I don't know if the audience will see it.

BS: Okay, all right.

CL: I guess.

BS: Yes, totally. Okay so Samson isn't really like your typical hero story. I mean it is, but it's different. If somebody watches this movie, though, they really are going to walk away with a sense of hope, right?

CL: Yes, I think so. I guess the overall message of the film is to understand that if you have faith in God and through the power of prayer that we can overcome any obstacle, and that making mistakes is okay, and falling down over and over is okay, but knowing that God will never turn His back on us, and that we can always turn to God no matter how many times we mess up.

BS: And that message is often lost, isn't it, in the church. Like what you said, making mistakes is okay. It really is, right?

CL: Yes, I mean as long as you learn from them.

BS: Yes, exactly.

CL: Right?

BS: We all make mistakes and we mess up, but God never abandons us, never leaves us, and I think at the heart of so much of the struggles in the church, is this idea that if I mess up at all, like I have to hide it, or I can't tell God, or tell people. I guess that's one of the great stories of Samson is like God never really actually leaves Samson, he still loves him.

CL: Yes he's sort of this imperfect hero.

BS: Yes, like an antihero.

CL: Yes!

BS: Great, well we appreciate it so much that you guys are doing this film, and I know that a lot of people are thrilled to see this movie. It's an awesome film, so we're encouraging you guys here in the church and watching on television to check out Samson. It's in theaters all across the nation, and I think we're excited for you guys.

CL: Thank you, we're excited, too.

BS: Excited to see what's going to happen.

CL: Thank you so much.

BS: Well Caitlin Leahy, thank you so much for being here, and thanks for all you guys do.

CL: Thank you for having me.

BS: Appreciate you.

## How to Give

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Friends, let's say this together. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world.

Thanks, you can be seated.

### MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "How to Give"

We're in the middle of a series called DIY – Do it yourself – No One Can Follow Jesus for You. And if you haven't kept up with us, you can check out more about this series on our podcast. It's a free audio download of these sermons. By the way, how was Nick last week? Pretty good, huh? What a great guy.

So we took a break last week, but we're getting right back into the series. This series is about talking to new Christians. Many of you here are new believers; you're sort of coming back to the faith. About how to live a typical or normal life for Jesus. Now that might be the wrong word. There is no typical life for Jesus, but how to do the things Christians do to form their mind, and even their bodies in the image of Jesus Christ. And so we talk about things like how to pray, how to go to heaven, how to read your Bible, how to share your faith. Today, we're going to talk about how to give.

And I did this for a reason because to be a Christian, in many ways, means to take on the generosity of Jesus. Jesus was generous, wasn't He? He gave and He gave and He gave. And so much of our lives is to take on that same generosity so that we can also receive from heaven the generosity of God.

So today I want to talk about giving, and as you probably know, I actually don't teach on giving that much. It's probably a.. it is a mistake, and a lot of it is honestly, just to be vulnerable, its coming from an insecurity that I know what people say about televangelists. I know what people say about pastors, that especially unchurched, critical people believe that pastors, especially pastors on TV, are doing it for the money. So when I talk about giving, because this is a non-profit, and we obviously need financial gifts to do what we do, it seems self serving. But I also want to say if that's you today and you're like he's just saying this because he's self serving, don't give it to us. Give it to someone else. Give it to another church or another thing you care about, and watch and see that what I say today is true – that cheerful givers are blessed by God. God loves to bless generous people. And if you're living from a place of scarcity and you feel like I don't have enough, and I never have enough, and I can't get a leg up, I want to encourage you become a generous person and watch how divine doors will open in your life. Doors of opportunity, things that the world would call lucky, I believe that God blesses generous people because He does.

And I've lived this out. Even before I was a pastor, you know my dad used to teach us, and he did this in the church when he was a pastor, he would take ten oranges. And he was like okay, somebody gives you ten oranges, what do you do? You eat seven oranges, two oranges go in the bank, and one orange goes to church. And that's how we did it. I mean since I was a little kid, when I got ten dollars, I got to spend seven dollars on toys and candy, two dollars went into my life savings, (I loved calling it life savings, I don't know why) and one dollar went to church, and I put that dollar in the plate. And I'm so glad that my parents taught me that because I believe that whatever blessing I've received in life, so much of it has been.. I mean I'm not trying to brag, but just taking on God's word as truth, that to tithe, that to give to God's kingdom is a way to invite blessing on your own life. It just is.

So I want to begin with a story. One of the times I saw this outside of my own life, and saw somebody realize this, was a man named Don Trotter. I haven't asked permission to tell this story. I hope this is okay. I'm sure it is. Don is a dear friend of mine, and when I was in high school, he was a businessman and he sold insurance. He lives in a little town outside of Tulsa called Coweta Oklahoma. And it was in this little town, he had a daughter, and she was in junior high, and he decided he wanted his daughter and her friends to know the Lord. And so he started this thing at his house called Thursday night teens. We called it TNT. It was 1994, so we had like dynamite and everything was extreme, and it was exploding and cool. It was the 90's; it was this thing.

And so we started this thing called TNT, and we would invite people to Don's house to worship and study the Bible. It was very simple, but at the heart of it was this sort of like place to sort of belong and be loved. And so Don, when he started this as an insurance salesman, was really struggling and wasn't doing well.

## How to Give

And so he decided to take what little money he could set aside and invest it in teenagers. He would buy games, like he bought a Foosball table, and then later he bought like a volleyball net, and he started doing things to get these kids to come to his house.

By the end, I saw over a period of probably three or four years of doing this with Don, how his business totally blew up, in a good way. I mean it was just like he was all of a sudden doing very, very well. And it was the end of that stretch as I was going off to college that Don, who is not a prosperity gospel guy, he was a normal Oklahoma Baptist who sells insurance that stumbled on this Biblical truth that every dollar he invested in kids he got back a hundred fold. He just said 'Bobby, every time I bought something or spent something for this little ministry to help teenagers, I just watched as my business grew exponentially at the rate that I gave. And so I started testing it, and I started giving more,' and he said 'Bobby, I can promise you that giving to God's kingdom, you just can't out give God. And I actually watched this happen as God blessed Don for investing into God's kingdom.

Now of course there are plenty of ministers who have run away with this, but I want to encourage you not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. We oftentimes might criticize some of this theology as prosperity gospel, but dang I would much rather be preaching the prosperity gospel than the poverty gospel. Wouldn't you? The gospel of more than enough, rather than the gospel of lack.

And I guess what I'm saying is that this idea, don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, there are certainly ministers and pastors who have taught some of these things to benefit themselves personally, but I promise you the word of God is true and the idea that when you invest in God's kingdom, you will be blessed is a Biblical principle. It's true. I've seen it in my own life, and I've seen it in the lives of others.

So it's very simply this: God loves a cheerful giver. And I want to say no matter how much money you make in life, if you're not a generous person, you will never feel like you're succeeding. No matter if you make millions and millions of dollars, and you buy all the coolest things in the world but never give any money away, you'll never feel like you're truly succeeding. That's because when you give a little bit of your money, all of your money is blessed. Okay.

In Malachi, chapter 3.. so Malachi is a great.. I love Malachi. It's the last book of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible, and Malachi was written a hundred years after the Babylonian exile. Now remember God chose the Jewish people through Abraham to be a blessed people, and in the covenant with Abraham, God said you will be blessed so that what? So that you can be a blessing. God blesses certain people in the world in order that they will bless other people with not only wealth but knowledge, wisdom, protection, etc.

So God says over His people, I will bless you, so you could be a blessing. What – to other Jewish people? No. All the Jewish people will be blessed so that they can be a blessing to the whole world. And so by the time we get to Malachi, you just see waves of the Jewish people either being obedient to God's laws, being a just community, they care for the poor, they care for the needs of others, they uphold the Torah, and God is blessing them, or they are in rebellion against God, they are cruel to the poor, they are cruel to children, they are an unjust society and God puts them under His wrath. And you see this sort of back and forth throughout the Bible.

And so when Malachi comes around, the Jewish people are returning from this long horrible exile in Babylon. And after they've been freed, they return to Jerusalem with the hope that now finally the age that has been promised, an eternal age of peace and justice, an age of righteousness where God's throne is in Jerusalem and Jerusalem is at peace and is blessed and is a blessing to the world has come. So everybody returns, you see it in Nehemiah and other places, returns to Jerusalem excited about this. But Malachi is written a hundred years after that, and what you see is that the same old stuff is going on. Malachi, the first part of it is this dialog between God and Israel. And it begins with this, God says, it begins with 'I love you.' That's the first sentence of Malachi. I love you. And Israel's response is, no you don't.

Notice how even in Malachi you find that all sin and brokenness, cruelty to the poor, all of it is rooted in this idea that I'm not loved and I don't belong. God has turned His back on me. So God begins by saying you are my beloved, and Israel says, no we're not. And then there's this dialog that goes back and forth. God says you've turned my temple, so the temple is the center of Jewish worship. He's like it's falling apart. There's cracks in the walls. And all the offerings that you bring are the worst. You bring sick animals and rotten fruit, and you don't care about my temple.

## How to Give

And He says, and you've turned your back, you men, you've turned your back on your wives and your children for other women. And He goes on, He says you've defiled my temple and etc., and this whole thing is going on where God is saying return to me, return to me, return to me.

And finally you get to this part, and it's at the end, Malachi chapter 3, where God finally says it again. He says 'return to me,' and the way He tells them to return to Him is through generosity.

In Malachi chapter 3, verse 6, it says, "I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob are not destroyed." In other words, I've protected you and I'll never stop protecting you. "Ever since the time of your ancestors, you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them." And here it is: "Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord."

"But you ask, how are we to return?" What do you think the answer is? I already told you, didn't I. "How are we to return?" And then God asks in a very Jewish way, "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, how are we robbing you? And he says, in tithes and offerings. You are under a curse. You and your whole nation because you are robbing me." That's pretty rough, isn't it. But then listen to how it takes this tone of hope: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. Test me in this." Everybody say test me in this. Now if you're Jewish and you're in synagogue, and the rabbi is teaching this, your hand goes up in the air. This is a big red flag because right in the heart of the Torah, Deuteronomy chapter 6, it says do not test the Lord your God. It's like a major command in the Bible. Jesus even quotes it, remember? When He's being tempted in the temple and the devil tempts Him to jump off of the towers and the angels will catch Him. And Jesus quotes Deuteronomy and says 'do not test the Lord your God. Its written.'

The only place in the whole Bible anywhere, in like thousands of pages of text that God says 'test me' is right here. "Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room to store it." That's pretty cool. "I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe, says the Lord Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty."

Very clearly in the context of Malachi, the way we return to the Lord is through our generosity. Through generosity. It's amazing that God even says that, test me in this. It actually echoes what Jesus is. 'God says test me in this, that if you give your tithes and offerings, I will pour out so much blessing in your life there won't be enough room to contain it.'

Jesus says that in Luke. He says "give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap." Its either true or it isn't, guys. Its either the word of God or its fiction.

The first time I heard somebody say that with such conviction was a guy named David Green. The first time I came across David Green's name was at Oral Roberts University. The last year I was leaving, they were falling into bankruptcy, they had no idea what to do, and a guy named David Green from Oklahoma City, I had never heard of him, came in, bailed out the school, like wrote a cash check to the school if they followed new practices that would make them a more efficient and better school. And basically saved my alma mater. I was like whoa, this is amazing.

I met him a few months ago at an interview and he was like you wouldn't know that he was anyone's.. he was just a very humble Oklahoman man. He's just very centered and down to earth, and I asked him, I said David, what is the key to success? How have you been so utterly successful in your life? And he goes, I just believe the Bible. I just believed it. It says give and I will open up so much that there won't be enough room to contain it. And then he just says, so I just gave and God gave back to me. I gave away all my money and I got it all back. And he's the one who said that. He goes just believe it. Just believe the Bible, or throw it away. Believe it, or throw it away. It's either real or it's not. He just gives and gives and gives, and God continues to bless him.

Do I think that if you give your money, you're going to be a billionaire? No, but I have seen that God blesses people who are not living in this anxious place of greed and a defensive posture, and a posture of scarcity, but rather He gives to people who give away. He blesses people who bless others. That's an amazing thing.

I believe generosity is the answer to scarcity. I think the best time to give is when you don't feel like you have anything to give. The best time to give of your time is when you feel you have no time. The best time to give of your money is when you feel like you have no money. It's always good to be generous, but it's in those times especially that God puts us to the test, and I just very much think that when we respond in faith to the word of God, and give even when it's hard, that God will bless us.

## How to Give

I remember going to Oral Roberts, they had this sign on the back of the chapel and it said, "if you have a need, plant a seed." It was a classic Oral Roberts quote. And I've put that to the test.

I remember when we were looking for a church, when we were planting a church, we wanted to move into the American Legion Hall and they wanted two thousand dollars a week for us to worship there. And it was our first pick, so we just moved on and looked at other places, and couldn't find anything. And finally we just said all right, Lord, we can't find any property, we're just going to give away all our money. And we decided that that year we would give away 90% of our income to the poor. And when that happened, because of a combination of a guy you guys might know Jim Case, he and some others like painted and fixed up their building.

Anyway, the long and short of it is we got to worship in the American Legion for free. We had a need – more money, so what did we do? We gave our money to the poor and we watched how God blessed us in that. And I see over and over that when you need something in your life, to invest into your need is a very wise thing to do. The world says be safe, be guarded, protect, hold it, don't let anybody touch it or see it. But the Lord says give and it'll be given to you pressed down, shaken together, running over, pouring into your lap. Its either true or it isn't. It's one or the other.

So I just believe and I have seen that generosity is the answer to scarcity. You know God is generous, isn't He. Is God generous? I mean just look.. I mean you live in California! God is especially generous to you. Right now it's like 72 degrees and you can drive 45 minutes and go skiing in Mountain High, or surfing in Newport Beach.

No listen God is generous. He gives us so much, and a lot of it we take for granted. And whether it's the beauty of the universe, whether it's our friends and our family, whether it's our financial well being, our health, it's like when you're healthy, you're not thankful for health until you get sick. God is just so generous to us, and blesses us. And in fact He gave us His greatest treasure, His only Son Jesus Christ. What a gift. For God so loved the world that He gave! That's what He does, He just gives and gives and gives and gives.

And so did Jesus. He gave everything, including His life. If we want to be like Jesus, we have to become generous people. We have to give. We have to give. Everyone has something to give. And when we give, the more we give, our life goes from this violent posture towards the world. See like imagine you're just holding onto something whether it's your money, or your time, or your car, or your house, you're holding onto it, it makes fists like you're holding back the world, you're holding back others, you're trying to hang onto everything. And when you're making fists, you can't receive anything. You can't give anything, but you can't receive. But when you give, your hands open. And it's like your whole body and your soul open, not only to give away, but to also do what? To receive, to bless, to embrace, to receive, and to give. It's all the same posture, and that's what happens in the soul.

So, if you want to give, let me talk about how to give with wisdom, and how to give in a way that pleases God. First, let me read quickly from 2nd Corinthians chapter 9. And this is Paul, again, saying the same thing. Remember that in Biblical idea, the idea of money is a lot like seed: with your seed, a farmer has a choice to eat a seed or plant a seed, right?

2nd Corinthians chapter 9, it says "remember this – whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. But 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" what? "A cheerful giver." Look, the first thing I want you to know before we get into the things, giving should be fun. You should enjoy giving. It shouldn't be a church tax. It should be something that you love to do. Okay? Everybody agree on that? Giving is fun. Make it fun. And if you do that, and you receive the joy of giving, you're going to want to give more.

So rule number one, giving for a Christian, you should aim to give 10% of your income. And maybe you say Bobby, I can't give 10% of my income. You totally can. Look, I did it in college, when I didn't have enough Ramen noodles to get through finals. If I could do it then, you can do it. Trust me. And you will see that when you give 10% of your income, you don't really feel a negative difference much in your standard of living, but you get, all of a sudden, this joy that comes from being a cheerful giver. If you still say Bobby, I just can't do it. I can't convince my spouse to do it. I want to encourage you to pick a percentage and try and tick it up. My brother-in-law, Chris, they didn't feel like they were in a place to tithe, so they decided to tweeth. So tithe is a 10th, tweeth is a 20th. So they gave five percent of their income for awhile until they were able to get to a place where they feel like could wisely give away 10% of their money. All right? So if you want to give like Jesus, you have to give 100%, but if you want to give like a Christian, you only have to give 10%, all right? All right.

## How to Give

Rule number two: make the church your default but don't limit it to that. That's actually where a lot of the joy comes from. You're always going to give to the things you care about, and that is good, but when you decide that 10% of my money is going out the door to somebody or something, you all of a sudden get this freedom where you begin to be more receptive to the needs of other people, especially their financial needs. And so I'm telling you as a pastor, if you have 10% of your money set aside to give to this church, I am giving you the freedom you have it.. you don't need me to give it to you.. you have the freedom to use some or all of that money to bless and love your neighbor.

In other words, if you set aside \$300 a month for the church, and you see that your neighbors across the street are just struggling, they've got little kids or something, you can take \$100 of that \$300, or all of it, and just give them \$50 or \$100 to go have a meal, or buy them movie tickets and watch their kids for them. Like you're doing way more with that \$100 by directly blessing your neighbor, than we as a church could in blessing them. And especially if you do that in the posture of trying to show them the love of God and the blessing of God, I think it's a very good thing. So what you do is you set aside the money and you give it to the church, unless some other need comes up. If you have a neighbor that can't pay their rent, or you see somebody that's in need, you give to those people.

I had a friend in college who we did this, and he did this thing. He would hire day laborers to work on his house, and he was like man, day laborers never get a day off because like most people get a paid vacation, but they never do, so he did this thing called day laborers day off, and he went and like hired a guy from El Salvador, paid him his hourly rate to just go have fun. And they went like bowling and golfing and like went out and saw a movie, and he like paid him an hourly rate to have a paid day off. I think stuff like that is cool. I actually changed my.. I used to say don't give cash to homeless guys who are flying signs until I heard a comedian talk about this, and he actually changed my mind. I think it's good to give money to homeless people who are flying signs on the side of the street. If you want to give them \$5 or \$10 or \$100, give it to them. He was joking and he said it like this. He said, "you know people say I don't want to give them money because they'll spend it on drugs and alcohol." And he says, "well what do you think I was going to spend it on?" And then he said "these people who say 'I don't give my money to poor people, I give it to an institution. I know where my money's going.' No you don't." He says "these people are like 'don't associate with poor people, just give us the money and we'll make sure they get it.'" It's really good.

Look if you have a problem, too, you're afraid that some of the maybe homeless people that you see will spend it on drugs and alcohol, you can use some of your tithe money to buy Starbucks cards. You can get an eight pack of ten Starbucks cards on Amazon for \$80, just keep them in your glove box, and then if you see somebody you give them a \$10 Starbucks card. That means the world to some of these people who live on the street.

I am actually really thankful for Starbucks. I believe Starbucks is the best homeless ministry in America and I don't mean that jokingly. Starbucks does not have to allow our homeless neighbors to loiter on their couches on cold nights. They're often open till two in the morning, or they open at four in the morning, and they welcome our homeless neighbors to stay in their for profit business, even though they might not be the best clientele, and I just appreciate that so much. So I really would recommend that that's one way to, not only bless our homeless neighbors, but to bless Starbucks.

Okay, so in other words, make giving fun. Listen to the hurts of the world and use your money to bless the world, and then whatever is left over, give to the church. Don't let us become like Malachi where we've got cracks in the walls, and think about when we get to our big ask.

Finally the last thing, it's supposed to hurt, okay? It's supposed to hurt a little. Don't be stupid, don't be really dumb, but it should hurt a little because especially in this area of giving, pain equals growth. It does. Pain equals growth. Imagine like when I talked about going to the open life, imagine that you've been having a grip like this for a month and now for the first time you decide you're going to open your hands. It's going to hurt, isn't it. It's going to feel awkward, even though it's the posture it's supposed to be in. So opening your heart and your life to the generous life should sting a little bit and that's okay. I'll cause you to grow, and the more it stings, the more you'll be blessed. I just believe that with all my heart. Open your heart. God loves a cheerful giver. Give to your neighbors, and give to those who are hurting, in Jesus' name, amen. Love you guys.

### BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.