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### GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

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

HS: And a very warm welcome to you. We're so happy you're here. We do not care what your singing voice sounds like. Worship with us today with all of your heart and out loud. There is power in unified worship. We love you. Thank you for being here.

BS: Yes. And even if you just got a rap, that's good enough for us, right? Bob Dylan: Joyful, joyful. We adore you.

HS: It's fine. Go for it.

BS: It's good enough for us, right, Cohen?

CS: Dear Captain Jack Sparrow.

BS: Yes, Jack Sparrow. Okay, let's pray. We thank you, Lord. We're grateful that your Holy Spirit is here. Thank you, God, that you move us in the direction of life, of provision, of health, of goodness. Thank you, God that you only will what is good for us and not what is evil, and you've forgiven us and you love us. We thank you and it's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HS: Amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say, God loves you and so do I.

### SCRIPTURE – 1. Corinthians 1,18-19,25-31 - Hannah

Would you open your Bibles with me to 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 25?

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many were influential. Not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify the things that are so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. That is our righteousness, our holiness, and our redemption. Therefore, as it is written, let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. Amen. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### INTERVIEW - Sara Hagerty (SH) with Bobby Schuller (BS)

Sara Hagerty is a speaker and bestselling author who penned the popular Adoration series. Through her books, she's found herself to be a voice of hope to many facing challenges in their lives. Her new book, *The Gift of Limitations: Finding Beauty in Your Boundaries*, invites readers to embrace their limits, and see that maybe the things we view as our greatest weaknesses could be used in the most unexpected ways.

BS: Sara, hi. What a privilege to be with you this morning. And welcome, we're so glad you're here.

SH: Thank you, I'm so glad to be here.

BS: Hey, a lot of people are familiar with your adoration series and other stuff that you've done, and before we get to your new book, tell me a little bit about your faith journey for those who aren't familiar with you, and kind of your background.

SH: Well I have been a believer for a long time. I experienced some of my first hiccups in my faith in my life in my 20's when my husband and I walked through an extended period of infertility 13-plus years.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

During that time, we adopted two kids from Ethiopia and then two more from Uganda and then had a bunch of surprise miracle pregnancies, so it's been pretty much an up and down road with God.

BS: It's so interesting how often that happens, and I'm not going to give any commentary on it because I know a lot of times it doesn't happen, but it's an interesting thing, and I know a lot of people don't understand how infertility can be so painful, especially for couples, but especially for the female, and we've had family members and others..

SH: Absolutely. Debilitating even, yes.

BS: ..yes, it's really a strange thing. Let's talk about your book *The Gift of Limitations*. What inspired you to write this book?

SH: Well as I said, I think early in my 20's when everybody else was experiencing these rights of passage into motherhood and growing their family and their right of passage was a do not enter sign for me. It was the first time that I started to realize you can't just will yourself into the type of life that you think that you're going to have in God; that you can't make certain circumstances happen. And then after growing my family, I started to see, even as my family grew, I was experiencing limitations in my health, and even having a big family, big full family life that I could not make myself get out of. And so I started to ask the question who is God when there's been a fence, a boundary line around my life that is not moving. And I started to see He's right here and He has something for me in these limitations that I resent.

BS: Yes, and so you talked about the gift of limitations. So how are those limitations, in a practical way, how was that a gift? Like did you see infertility as a gift? I mean I would have seen that as a curse, kind of.

SH: Absolutely. Not in the middle of it, and I think that's the thing. That's maybe the irony of the title is I don't think we can just tell ourselves see this as a gift and get over it. What I write about in the book is that there really is a process that all of us need to go through in terms of naming our limitations. The things that we resent and we try and work around, we spend untold amounts of energy trying to overcome. And everyone, probably everybody watching has something in their life right now that is just not moving. They're praying, they're interceding, they're fasting, even, asking God to move and it's not moving, so in order to see our limitations as a gift, I think we need to name them, we need to give ourselves permission to grieve them, and give ourselves space to grieve them, and I think it's in grieving that we then find God come and meet us. And He maybe gives us a different picture of the story that He's written for us than the story we think that we're living.

BS: Is there like an example in the Bible where you see this kind of happening where a character or someone has a limitation and you see this sort of expressed in scripture kind of?

SH: Well I mean I think it's all over the Bible. Practically speaking, I think of Mary. What we see now as the salvation of the whole world, she experienced as the loss of people's opinion of her, potentially loss of family relationships, loss of standing in the community. It was a profound limitation and it brought salvation to the entire world.

BS: Yes, it's interesting to think of Mary, isn't it, where like in her case, she's engaged, she's in a culture that has a lot of face, so what you do reflects your family. And here she is, whatever she was, 15-years-old, 14 maybe, 16, and she's pregnant, not by her fiancé, and she's telling the world I'm a virgin, and it's an amazing gift from God. When you think about all of what she had to lose, and yet when I see that, she doesn't look at it like many teenagers would, like a disaster, but she's really excited that God chose her and picked her. Kind of interesting.

SH: He gave her a story that was so different than the story she probably imagined for her life when she first was engaged, and yet we look at the fruit of that story and we go the limited life she lived, even watching her son in His death, brought so much profound life.

BS: How do you balance sort of faith and standing on God's word and sort of like performing miracles and the sort of walk on water, raise the dead kind of faith that we see from Jesus. How does that come to play in this philosophy of limitations?

SH: That's such a good question. I think it's extremely nuanced, and I think in some senses, it requires and invites us into more mature walk with God, where we become more self-aware, where we practice just noticing ourselves. Am I pushing this thing? I think of a recent limitation I've had in my life where I prayed for two, three years for this thing to shift, and it was like every morning circling the floor of my house, praying God move this, God move this, God move this circumstance. And it was one morning just a quiet whisper, like hey this is about you and me, more than this is about this circumstance changing.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

I think when we come up against our limitations, we have an invitation to notice what's actually happening inside of us, and sometimes these things are actually intended to be limited and God is calling forth a surrender, and sometimes He's saying keep believing that I can move this mountain. It's not a one size fits all.

BS: It's like you're saying like sometimes we're waiting for God to fix the problem, or God to change something, but He's waiting for us to change first, maybe.

SH: Absolutely, and the thing that we're going I will let my breath out; I will sigh when this thing shifts might actually be the thing that He said I'm not moving this boundary line because I want you to find it. Psalm 16, the boundary lines for me have fallen in pleasant places. I'm not moving this boundary line because there's a process I want to take you through where you actually find out that it's pleasant.

BS: Hey, if you're watching and you're looking for a book that will really help you when you feel stuck, when you feel like why is God not answering your prayers, get ahold of this: The Gift of Limitations by Sara Hagerty. Sara, thank you so much. We appreciate you.

SH: Thanks so much for having me. Bless you.

BS: Bless you, thank you.

### MESSAGE/PRAYER – Bobby Schuller "The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough"

There were two pottery classes. Professor performs an experiment. This was published in Art and Fear by David Bayless. This pottery professor wanted to see what makes great pottery. Is it volume? Or is it study? And so he had two classes and the job of the first class, he told them here's what I want you to do. You're going to be graded on one piece of pottery, and the better it is, the higher your grade. The second class, who didn't know about the first class said, you're going to be graded on the volume of pots you make. They don't have to be amazing, you just need to make as many pots as you can and I'll grade you based on that. Now he thought at the end of the year, the class that focused on making a great pot would make the best pot, but the opposite happened. He found that not only did the second class have the most pots, but their best pots were a million times better than the one pot created by the first class. Isn't that an interesting parable for life? Here's what we learn from that story – action, practice, doing makes the difference. Doing makes the difference. Yes, we plan, yes, we visualize, yes, we write our goals down, yes, we learn, yes, we grow, but unless you take action, none of that other stuff matters. We're going to talk about this today. Here is the number one reason why people don't get breakthrough in life. Here's the number one reason why people full of potential, why people who are educated, why people who are intelligent and optimistic, people who are well connected and healthy, people who are smart and positive still don't get a breakthrough, it's because they don't take action. That's the reason. They talk about the idea, they plan, they design, they budget, they visualize, but they never go! And the reason is action comes from faith. And so today, we want to talk about how faith comes from hope, and how that faith, a godly kind of Bible faith, creates action inside of us, and my hope is today you're going to leave here changed; you're going to leave here different. And if you're watching on YouTube or on television, I want to encourage you to listen to this whole sermon, and I promise you by the end, you're going to be ready to make a difference in your life. You're going to get the breakthrough you're hoping for. Let's begin by turning to the word of God. If you have your Bibles, open up to 1st Corinthians chapter 1, verse 18: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. But to us who are being saved, it is the power of God, for it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, the intelligence of the intelligent" (that's hard to say) "I will frustrate." And then jump down to verse 25: "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom. And the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many of you were influential, not many were of noble birth, but God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world, and the despised things, and the things that are not to nullify the things that are so that no one can boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." I love this passage because it talks about how when you're sort of connected to God's wisdom, it looks like you're a dummy to everybody else. You look like somebody worthy of ridicule, until you get the victory. He talks, Paul, when he's writing this letter to the church, he's like I know some of you have had an amazing impact, some of you are famous, some of you have changed the world.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

But all of you, and this is a big deal in the Roman Empire, all of you came from nothing. Let me ask you here in the house a question: who has heard of the name Tiberius Claudius Germanicus? Raise your hand, by a show of hands. And if you're here in the first service doesn't count. Tiberius Claudius Maximus. All right. Tiberius Claudius Germanicus, any? I saw about four hands, that's pretty good. Because there's going to be an essay, Jen. Well you were in the first service, too, you're lying! All right, by a show of hands, second question: how many of you have heard of St. Peter? Oh everyone, huh! A lot of people. Now here's what's interesting about that – Tiberius Claudius Germanicus, his title was Caesar, but if you had said do you know the name Tiberius.. I can't even remember.. Claudius Germanicus to someone in 54 AD when this letter was written, everybody would look at you and laugh. It would be the same as if Taylor Swift was president, or something. The most famous person with the most power in the world. Now St. Peter was from a little part of the world that nobody cared about, Israel, and a little part of Israel nobody cared about in Israel called Galilee. That was where all the immigrants and fisherman were. Peter was up there fishing and he was called, and now today we know he's one of the greatest, most important figures in human history, even if you're an atheist you'd have to say that. So isn't it interesting how Paul says God loves to choose people like an obscure fisherman that is not of noble birth to change the world and have a cascading effect on history. Isn't that hope for us? Whether you're of noble birth or not, it's not that noble birth is bad, it is that it doesn't matter. Here's what matters – do you take action? Do you live by faith? See God loves to use unqualified people to do impossible things. Amen. And He does it by giving them godly wisdom instead of the world's wisdom. Every society, every country has elites. They have academic elites. They have business elites. They have religious elites. Jesus was dealing with His own religious elites of His day, amen? And God, in His good sense of humor, likes to use the least likely to unravel the institutions that those elites love so much. I was actually very honored to be included in a room with the smartest people I've ever been around in my life. Incidentally, they were all believers. It was an amazing experience. And it was broken down into three groups of people, the first group were astrophysicists and famous biologists and scientists from the greatest universities in the world. And then they invited journalists and theologians, and I guess somebody told them I was a theologian and so I got an invite, but I'm not really a theologian, to be honest with you. I'm not great at.. but anyway. I was invited. And we're sitting in this class, and it was a thing that went on for a couple days, and brilliant. My mind was blown constantly. But one of the interesting things is when they started to talk about the universe and the expanding galaxies and everything that was going on around us in this vast space we call the universe, they said something weird that the universe is expanding. And so I raised my hand, and I said excuse me, I'm so sorry, I'm the dummy in the room. What is the universe expanding into? Into space? They said no, space is something. The universe is expanding into nothing. And everybody looked at me like yes, dummy, it's expanding into nothing. And I was looking around, my hand went up again. I'm like I'm sorry; there's like several hundred people in this room. Classic Bobby, I'm like I'm sorry, talk to me like you're talking to like a 8th grader. Imagine I built a spaceship and I went to the very edge of the universe, and I wanted to poke through. What would happen? And she said you couldn't do it. I said what do you mean? She said you couldn't do it. There's nothing there. And then they all just kind of snickered. And I still don't get it. I was like okay. And what was funny is in this meeting, they said, and they were excited. They had a hundred percent assurance the age of the universe – 13.7 billion years old, within a margin of error of 200 million years, which is a small margin, actually. Thirteen point seven billion years old. And I just raised my hand again. I said how do you know? And they gave me all this math, and I'm becoming the annoying theologian in the room, and this is how, you can measure the light, its moving from a certain thing, and yada, yada, yada, and I said okay, okay. And I just kind of trusted them, but I thought to myself, that's a pretty big assumption to say absolutely with only a 200 million. And then guess what – recently there was a new telescope launched, a James Webb telescope into outer space, and they saw some really big galaxies that aren't supposed to be there. And it really upset the apple cart. And now they're scratching their head saying, because the age of light, I don't want to go down a rabbit hole here, but the amount of time it would take for that light to get there doesn't match up with their age of the universe, and they're trying to figure out maybe we were wrong. Which is a bummer for them. But fun for me! Because I thought.. I think there's a new paper that says we're sure its 26 billion years old, and I kind of just went like guys. Just shrug your shoulders. Move on. But anyway. And so here's what I want to say, not to criticize anybody. I know everybody is doing their best, and I love everyone, but just beware the world's wisdom. The world's wisdom that looks like certainty.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

It's really a false certainty that oftentimes leads to arrogance and people holding onto positions versus here's what God wants from you – to walk by faith and not by sight. Walk by faith. Now I know if you're in here and you're a smart person, I know you are, you would say well Bobby, shouldn't we plan? Isn't it good to know, to have knowledge? Isn't it good to learn? I'd say absolutely. You know me. But here's a good rule of thumb. Be elite but not elitist. You see, there's a difference. Do your best. Do all you can. Give all you've got. Touch as many lives as you can. Build as much as you can. Make as much as you can. Love as much as you can. But in the end, remain an empty cup ready to learn and hear from God. And don't do it in your own power, do it by the power of the spirit. Do all you can but don't rest on your laurels. Do all you can to win, but don't forget to help other people cross the finish line. Don't get into lazy group thinking. We all do it. It's such a temptation. You listen to people on the left and here's what they always say about people on the right – wow, everybody on the right, they're a bunch of sheep, they don't think for themselves. All they do is group think. You listen to people on right, and here's what they say about the left – wow, everybody on the left, they're all a bunch of sheep. They don't think for themselves, and all they do is group think. And you can say this about everyone, every group, it says it about another group. It's time for us, friends, to look in the mirror and recognize that whatever political group, whatever religious group, whatever business group, whatever environment you're in, is going to tempt you to think like the group rather than thinking for yourself. And it's a temptation for me. I've fallen into that trap a million times. Now do you remember a few weeks ago I said that there's a really great story I didn't have time to tell and I want to encourage you to come back so you can hear that story? The time has come! I'm going to tell you the story now, you ready? Yes, you can give me a hand for that. Heck yes, it's time. True story. True story. A guy in a semi is driving down the road. Sees a sign that the bridge is too low. Tries to stop his semi and gets stuck under the bridge and lodged. And all the officials come out, the authorities, the police and fire department, couple of tow trucks and different people, and they're doing everything they can to pull the truck out. They're using all sorts of vehicles to try and get it out. Hours are going by. Traffic is getting stopped. All sorts of problems are being created. A young guy, kid, comes along, sees everything that's happening. He knows the sheriff, because this is a small town. He asked the sheriff, what's going on? The sheriff explains it to him. We've been at it for hours trying to get this stupid thing out of the bridge. And the boy says well why don't they just let the air out of the tires? Wouldn't you know. And isn't it true in life, so often all the professionals jump to all the hardest conclusions and all the hardest answers, when sometimes it's just looking at you right in the face. But it's easy to just think the way everybody else thinks around you. Look, here's how we solve our problems as believers. We solve it with the word of God, with the Bible. We understand the Bible, the word of God, and its wisdom, and we let that guide us, and we invite the Holy Spirit, the author of the Bible to speak to us. So we listen to the word, and we listen to the spirit. I know that's not very concrete for a lot of people, but I'm telling you it is this kind of power that creates action and breakthrough in life. Here's what the Bible says – God's wisdom is foolishness to those who are perishing. The cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. When we say I have no power over my addiction, my sin, my selfishness, all the things that cause me to be.. I have no power to fix that on my own. I have to be crucified with Christ and raised from the dead. That's the only way I can be saved. That sounds ridiculous to the world, but it is the only answer to save our world is the cross. When Jesus says love your enemies and the world says get back at your enemies and docks your enemies and get them fired and gossip about them, Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Well in the world's eyes, that's foolishness. Its foolishness to give when you're in need in the world's eyes, but that's precisely what the scripture tells us. When you're in need, give some of your money away. Or to give grace and not ridicule. And even things like having children, and getting married. The world now says.. many people in the world think that's foolishness. Not that everybody has to do that, but the idea of it being dumb or a waste of time or a waste of money or a waste of a life and not for me. And the biggest one of all, is hope. And the hope I'm going to talk about today is not the hope that so many of the world speak of. Here's why – there's two types of hope. Here's the first kind of hope. I call it lazy hope. You know what that looks like. We've all been there before. Gosh, I hope I get some money to pay my rent. I hope I get a raise. I hope my kids know God. I hope I can travel someday. I hope I meet somebody or my relationships improve. I hope my marriage gets better. It's up to him. It's up to her. I hope, I hope, I hope. Not good. Here's the second kind, a Biblical kind of hope. And that's the one we're going to talk about today – Biblical hope. And this is what Biblical hope looks like. It means understanding the ways and promises of God that are written in the Bible. And that hope stirs within us a kind of faith, possibility thinking. It's possible for me.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

Stirs within us a faith that causes us to take action. Remember – if you want to increase your faith, you don't get it through prayer. You don't get faith through prayer. You don't get faith through worship. Here's how you get faith – faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. If you want to increase your faith, you study the Bible. That's how you increase your faith. And you study it seriously. That's how we increase our faith. And when this happens, when our faith is increased, it leads to real action. When faith is increased, action is increased. The proof is in the pudding. The number one reason people don't win. The number one reason people don't get breakthrough. The number one reason people don't get the money or the healing, or the reason they don't build their dream is because they don't take any action. And we act on hope. We act on hope. There is an element of hope that we all have to be comfortable with. This is what happens when you have the kind of hope I'm talking about that's based on the word of God, it means that you go before you have all the answers. You're going to have some answers, but not all of them. And that's just the way things are. My grandpa Schuller built a whole ministry on this principle. The kind of risks he took without having answers blew my mind when I look back. When you're at war, there's this thing called the fog of war where you know you have to take action, but you don't really know what's out there. You know how to be prepared, you have an idea of what might be out there, but all you know is if we stay here, we're going to die. We have to get out there. And it's a scary thing to do. And life is like that. Life is full of a fog of war. But here's one thing we know – if we stay here, it's not going to go well. If we stay here and hope things go well, it won't go well. Yes, you have some time to prepare, to plan, to cast a vision, to get some direction, but the direction is forward. It's not here. You have to go. You have to do something. Jesus gives His disciples this little experiment that I love and return to often. He tells them to go. And when He says go, He tells them I'm going to send you out there to perform miracles and do amazing things, but don't bring any food, don't bring any baggage or luggage, don't even bring money, don't even bring like a carry-on. He doesn't say that, but you get it., Just bring nothing except what you got on your back and go, and just watch, you're not going to need anything. And that's precisely what happens. They go out there and they perform miracles and they have authority over spirits, and just this incredible thing happens, and they come back and He says were you ever in need? And they said never. We were never in need. And this is the interesting thing about living in God's kingdom is when He says go, He wants you to trust that He'll make a way when you need a way, and He will, and He always has. This is foolishness to the world, right? This is foolishness to the world, especially to the elites. We're surrounded by elites constantly. We grew up with elites, you might work for an elite. Elites love the status quo. They love the group-think of the upper echelon. When a question is raised, an elite answers what 'does the guild think?' And because of this, the elites who seem like they have all the power actually are slow, they're lazy, and they are in love with committees. And because of this, if you're not an elite, you have the biggest advantage of all, which is you are the most free to take action, to go, and to do, and it will drive them crazy. It just will drive them crazy. Can I get an amen from goers and doers in the house? Go before you're prepared. Thank you for that amen. We got a winner in the house. Go before you're prepared. Once you have a plan, once you have a vision, act. Act. Do. Go. Here's Biblical hope – Biblical hope says something like this: if I keep stepping out in faith, God will respond. Remember what Corrie ten Boom said? If you have the faith, God has the power. Here's what the Bible says. God says to you if you draw near to me, I will draw near to you. Well that doesn't seem fair. Shouldn't God do the drawing? Well, sometimes He does. But sometimes He wants you to do the drawing. What do you do with that when the Bible says "you draw near to me and I'll draw near to you." Why would God want it that way? Why? Because God responds to action. Action is faith personified. Action is the best way to know if something is alive. Are you alive? I hope so. Have I put you to sleep? I hope not. Unless you need some rest, then by all means, take it. Action is the best way to know if something is alive. You assume that a statue is not alive, but then it turns and it greets you and wishes you a good morning, and you're.. AHHHHH. Ever seen those street performers? Oh, once it moves, you know it's alive. And that's how God is with us. Oh, it's moving! Look at that! Think of all the examples in the scripture that connect action with faith. Why would Jesus say pick up your mat and walk when He could just heal the man? Why would He say clean the mud from your eyes on the Sabbath to the man who's blind. And why would He say to the lepers go show yourself to the priests in Jerusalem and on the way they were healed. It's because God responds to action. God responds to action. There's the other side of the ledger, too. Notice how the rich young ruler says to Jesus, I believe! I believe! I believe! I believe! I follow! I'm a moral man, I do everything. What must I get to an eternal life? I believe, I believe, what should I do? And He says go sell everything and give it to the poor.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

And he says oh. Well, I mean I believe, but not like that. You see? It's the other side. No action. Talk is cheap. Action is a sign of spiritual maturity. When God commanded the Israelites to go into the River Jordan, it wasn't the first time He asked them to cross a body of water. The first time was the Red Sea, but He parted it first. The second time it's flowing like crazy, and they know if they walk in there and something doesn't happen, they're going to die. But they still walk in, with the water flowing before it parts. And they don't know if it's going to part. They don't know if they're going to walk on water, they don't know if they're going to breathe under water, or what's going to happen. They just know God said it, I trust it and they did it and it worked. That's the crazy thing that the world hates about Christian faith is that it actually works. That's what'll drive them the most crazy is that you actually win, you actually achieve, you actually do it. I don't see Peter walking on the water in the early part of his discipleship. It's at the end when he's really been there a long time that he looks at Jesus.. remember, it's his idea. Lord, tell me and I'll step out of the boat and I'll come to you, and He does. The bleeding woman spent all of her money and years trying to get well. She sees Jesus, gets this idea in her head – if I could just touch Him, I know I'll be well. But that wasn't enough. It wasn't enough to just say I believe He can make me well. She had to do more than that. There was a crowd of people, see, around Jesus, so she had to get on her hands and knees and she had to crawl, pathetic, right? How embarrassing. Had to crawl. And back then, people's feet were dirty, and that would have been considered like very lowly, embarrassing. Here she is crawling. And she touched Jesus and she's healed. And the amazing thing is that Jesus didn't even sign off on it. He didn't even agree to that. He was surprised. He turns around and He says I felt power go out from me. Who did that? She took it from Him. Whoa. I'm not here to defend that theologically. I'm not a theologian, as I said earlier in the sermon. I'm just here to tell you what happened. She's scared. She raised her hand, she said it was me, I'm sorry. And He says woman, your faith has made you well. What was faith in this story? Faith wasn't just believing, faith was getting on her hands and knees crawling and reaching, just forcing her way through. She didn't even touch Him, she touched His clothes and she was healed. Faith is action. Faith is action. Talk is cheap, faith is action. Action is skin in the game. God loves it when people take a leap. God loves it, even if it's stupid sometimes. I think He still makes it work. It's amazing. My son Cohen has developed this habit that whenever he gets out of the car, the car door opens, he stands up, turns like this, and like trust falls. And I always catch him. But just imagine if I didn't? In fact one time I opened the door, I undo his seatbelt, go back to the stroller to get something, and I see him mid-fall, and I run over and grab him, and he's still looks at me and he says Pirates of the Caribbean. Here's why the son can fall without looking, even if it's dumb. He knows the character of the father. He knows me. He knows I know him. He knows I'm going to catch him. Is it the best way to do it? Sometimes. Not always. In life, you have plenty of opportunities, but here's what you don't have plenty of – you don't have plenty of time. Can I get an amen from the house? You got plenty of opportunities, you got many times at the plate, you got many shots at the basket, you got many fill in the blank. Well here's what you don't have – you don't have a lot of time. People act like they only got one crack at it. How many cracks at it do you have? As much as you want. What if I lose, you say. Many of you, you come from a culture, a family culture, a religious culture, a national culture that says if you lose big once or twice, that's it for you. You can't do anymore. And I say to them, says who? What happens if you just do it anyway? What happens if you just say, no I'm going to do it a million times. You say what happens if I lose? Here's the danger of winning too early. When you win, you learn nothing. When you win, you learn nothing. So keep losing until you win. What's so bad with that? How else are you going to learn other than by losing, by breaking pots, building pots, messing up. Eventually you'll build enough pots that you'll be an expert. Haven and I went down a rabbit hole on YouTube. There's a guy named Jaw Jang who was terrified of rejection. And this is built on something I said in a sermon like three/four weeks ago, where I found another girl that did this, but it was based on this guy who about ten years ago decided he was going to put himself in the most unbelievably embarrassing but non harmful circumstances to get over his fear of rejection. And it was so funny. It was a really enjoyable video to watch. Like one, he went to a man's house and asked if he could take a picture in his backyard with a soccer ball. And you'd think that the guy would say no, get out of here. And that's what he was expecting, except the man kind of scratched his head and he said, sure, all right. No problem. Come on in. So here's this picture of Jaw with a soccer ball. And then he went into a Cheesecake Factory and he's not explaining any of this to anyone. He's not saying I'm going to have an experiment, I'm trying to get over rejection, he's just saying it plain as day. Goes into a Cheesecake Factory and the challenge was to get them to sing happy birthday to him.

## The #1 Reason People Can't Get a Breakthrough

And he goes in and says it's not my birthday, and I'm not going to order anything here, and he's in the lobby, he says but would your staff come and sing me a happy birthday? And he thinks he's going to get rejected. And they go yeah, yeah, we can do that, and they all come around and they sing him happy birthday. He goes to a burger place and asks for a burger refill. And the list goes on and on. And it's great. And the best thing about these videos is that the first one you can see he's trembling, terrified, can barely talk. It's like his lungs won't move. By the end, when they say no, he's in a relaxed and confident way, just trying to get them to say yes. How true is that. Actually what was interesting is after Haven, my daughter and I, were going through these videos, we were like we should do something like that tomorrow and she said what should I do? And I said how about this. Go to five strangers at school. This is junior high; it's the jungle out there, right? It's dangerous. I said you go to five strangers at your school and give them real compliments. She goes, okay, I'll do that. And then she said but I get to get one for you. And I said all right. Fire away. She goes you and mom are getting breakfast tomorrow, right? I was like yep. She's like don't explain anything, just get a selfie with the waiter. And I said done. This is Rick. The point is, get your reps in. Get your reps in. Make as many pots as you can, make as many mistakes as you can, do not wait to strike till the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking, right? William Butler Yeats. That's a real thing. When you see Smithy's, they're out there and they hammer something over and over and over, it actually gets red hot. So stop worrying, and start acting. Here's what worry is. Worry is sitting around thinking about the thing that has to be done, but not making a decision. Sitting around thinking about the thing, and not acting. Worry, anxiety, that's what it is. Its distress without a decision. Final story - maybe you have to act but you can't decide what to act on. Maybe you have road A and road B. You have door number one and door number two. Which door do you take? I had the same conundrum, actually, when I was trying to decide whether to lead the Crystal Cathedral. And Juan Carlos Ortiz, who was my mentor at the time, a wonderful minister at this church. Touched a lot of lives. Prayed with me about it and I asked him for advice. I said I don't know if I should go to the Crystal Cathedral or if I should just leave that alone. It's a mess and focus on what's working here in my church plant with my friends. Which way should I go? What should I do? And he sounded like Count Chocula, because he was from Argentina. God loves you, like this. But he said to me, if you go to the Cathedral, God will bless you because He loves you. But if you go and build your local church, God will bless you because He loves you. Here's the lesson: we got to go. We got to go. Make a choice. God will bless it because He loves you. God will bless you because He loves you. Take action, my friend. Take action. Your life is yours. You have a lot of try's, but not a lot of time. God will bless you because He loves you. We thank you, Father, that you're here now, and we pray that you'd put something inside of us, a bias for action, a bias to take a step, to take a leap, to move. Thank you, Father that you've given us all that we have. We love you, we trust you, and we thank you, it's in Jesus' name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

### 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.