

I. Introduction.

- A. Tonight, we're continuing on our "Dream Bigger" and "Believe Bigger" theme that we've been on for a few months. I shared the concluding message at the Central Illinois Prayer Summit last Saturday night about God's dream for central Illinois and how to live it out (recording and notes on gphop.org). We're going to break down the four main points from that message in the next four weeks.

2 Chronicles 7:14 | if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves (*humility*), and **pray** (*prayer*) and seek My face (*devotion*), and turn from their wicked ways (*repentance*), then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- B. God has a very real dream in His own heart to break into large geographic areas with healing and restoration that will touch all areas of society. This is the direction I believe he's leading the church of central Illinois. There are four main components (humility, prayer, devotion and repentance) to living this dream that we'll break down over the next four weeks. Tonight we'll touch on prayer—both personal and corporate.

II. Personal Prayer

Luke 10:38-42 | ³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with (too) much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part (*of life*), which will not be taken away from her."

- A. The story of Mary and Martha is one of my favorites in the entire Bible because it so clearly teaches the value of a devotional prayer life and the things that so easily keep that from happening.
- B. Having a consistent, simple personal prayer life causes us to regularly hear Jesus' voice and stay in a current relationship with Him. This causes our Christian walk to flourish and our community life to work. Specifically regarding community life at the GPHOP, our devotional life makes our corporate prayer gatherings work best.
- C. It's important to note that Jesus isn't affirming Mary's inactivity. He's affirming her choice to stay busy about the right things, instead of staying busy with wrong things or too many good things that still interfere with our relationship with Him.
- D. Our ongoing relationship with Jesus is the most important aspect of our life. Keeping current with Him is everything. We simply cannot love someone (first commandment) we don't know or spend time with.

III. Corporate Prayer

Mark 11:17 | Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of **prayer** for all nations'..."

- A. Jesus taught that the central activity of church community life is that of prayer. It's our tendency to minimize this clear directive and do other things. Though fellowship, evangelism, potlucks, etc. are good, they must not take the forefront or the main ministry emphasis; prayer must always be primary in Jesus' church. (**Note:** Each particular church fellowship or ministry must hear for themselves from the Lord what this means practically for them. A weekly corporate prayer gathering is the best way to begin to discern this as a body.)
- B. I've found over the years that prayer finds much more meaning when it's connected to the revelation that Jesus Himself intercedes as His main ministry function right now in heaven. He didn't just have a strong prayer life while on earth; He is currently praying for you and I and His church right now. (See Romans 8:27, 34; Hebrews 7:25)

Romans 8:34 | ...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us (*believers*).

- C. Prayer takes on more meaning corporately (and privately as well) when we see Him praying. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

IV. Additional Resources

- D. If you're interested in more insight and teaching regarding what I've shared on tonight, I have recordings and notes on our website (www.gphop.org) Teaching tab and Teaching Notes Archives link. Look specifically for a message and notes on "Taking Intercessory Responsibility For Our City" (May 14, 2016) and "The Revelation of Jesus the Intercessor" (July 18, 2015).

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document during service gets a \$1 bill.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for April 22, 2017

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We also have evening prayer with worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Friday. On Friday's, we have a women's prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. and a men's prayer gathering from 6-8 p.m. Our **Saturday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Saturday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **New teaching series:** As of Saturday, February 11, we've begun a new series on Dreaming Bigger. Messages will be recorded and posted on our website at gphop.org under the Teachings tab.
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandykistner@yahoo.com if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who are beginning a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter/Periscope (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo, YouTube and Snapchat for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), Garage Thinkers kingdom entrepreneurialism class (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the white board in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you have a prayer request that you would like our prayer teams to pray for regularly, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** The minimum prayer room budget is about \$3,600 per month. If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in the black donation box on the wall near the entrance to the prayer room. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. We currently have two active financial campaigns: 1) **Operation 24+7:** We're believing for 31 families, churches, ministries, businesses and organizations to support the ministry at an average of \$100 per month. This will help us meet our minimum monthly budget and ensure we continue to build toward a 24/7 prayer sanctuary with live worship. 2) **Spread the Word** campaign to raise \$5,000 specifically for video projects and website updates.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*