

## I. Introduction.

- A. I'm going to continue tonight to address themes relevant to the message I shared at the Hear gathering a few weeks ago about our need to overcome disillusionment resulting from disappointment in someone or something we thought would go another way. Since the gathering I've discussed what I felt God was saying specifically to the GPHOP (some of the history), the importance of forgiveness and how to grow and an encourager.
- B. When Jesus really gets ahold of our life, we begin to ask the deeper questions. One of these questions is essentially, "God, how do I do the greatest thing possible for You? How can I use my life the greatest way possible for Your glory." We all have in our mind this idea of what the most radical thing we think we should do is, especially when we're young. What's neat is that the first disciples asked these very questions and Jesus answered them in a rather surprising way.

## II. Scriptural basis for becoming spiritually great.

**Mark 10:35-45** | <sup>35</sup> Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." <sup>36</sup> And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup> They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." <sup>41</sup> And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. <sup>42</sup> But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup> Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. <sup>44</sup> And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

## III. Becoming spiritually great. Three main points.

1. First, you must have a vision to be great in God. Jesus did not rebuke the disciples for wanting to be great or first/best; instead He actually told them how to do it. We will never become what we don't aspire to be.
2. Second, you must know what being great in God is not. Becoming spiritually great is not a place (in a particular country, on a stage, etc.) or a position (being above others, leadership, etc.) or about prominence (having people's favor, having credibility, etc.).
3. Third, you must understand that true spiritual greatness is being obedient to that (current) assignment which God calls you to while doing so with the humble attitude of a servant and the unbreakable commitment of a slave. In other words, if you're a true disciple of Jesus, nothing is below you. And you're not committed when it's easy and self-serving, but backslidden when it's hard and self-sacrificing. **(Bathroom story.)**
4. Let me reiterate a point: we will never lay hold of (spiritual) greatness in the way God calls us to if we don't set our heart on it. This is why I'm going to end with a word about spiritual fantasy. Many don't set their heart to be great in God thinking it will just happen.

## IV. Overcoming spiritual fantasy.

1. **Be intentional about your personal calling.** We must overcome the fantasy that we can live spiritually aimless and somehow wake up one morning as an apostle. I say that a bit jokingly, but what I mean is that without making deliberate choices toward what we feel like God is calling us to do, we deceive ourselves if we think it will lead to our highest calling in God. If you feel like God is calling you to do "X," then make sure that you're pursuing "X" in your daily life. For example, long before I led a prayer ministry, I was doing many daily/weekly prayer meetings for many years.
2. **Be intentional about your personal character.** We must overcome the fantasy that we can be great in our calling without humility/character. This is another way to reiterate being spiritually great. No matter what we're called to do, we're called to do it with the character of a Christ-like heart, which is that of a servant. When God elevates us in some way in a particular calling, we must not presume in any way that character no longer matters. Rather, it matters far more. As God elevates us more and more, we must die to ourselves more and more. We must throw off pride and choose to posture our heart as a servant of others.

**Mathew 25:23** | His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

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

### Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for December 1, 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 have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENT:** We'll be hosting a Christmas potluck dinner right before our concluding service of the year on Friday, December 22 from 5-6 p.m. The main dish will be catered, but please bring a small side dish or dessert to share. Also, please bring a small gift of \$5 or less to share with a child. We will have a meal and do a gift exchange for the children. There will be no Friday Encounter Night service on December 29.
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](mailto: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](mailto:info@gphop.org). Contact Mandy Kistner at [mandykistner@yahoo.com](mailto: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 (@GPHOPPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube 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](mailto: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 chalkboard 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 would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to [info@gphop.org](mailto:info@gphop.org).
9. **Giving:** The prayer room budget is approximately **\$3,000** per month and so far **for the month of November we've met our budget in full**. 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 either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal to give electronically.

*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.*