

I. Introduction.

- A. The book of Revelation tells us not once but twice that the Creator God of Genesis 1 will one day stand close enough to us to extend His hand and gently wipe away our tears. There's a tenderness to God that, if we connect to on a revelatory level, can profoundly change the way we relate to Him and the ones He loves. I believe understanding this tenderness fuels our prayer life like nothing else.

II. Scriptures.

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV) | ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 7:17 (NIV) | For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

- A. **Let's begin with a question:** When you think about standing before God at the end of your life, do you think of Him like this? Do you think of Him as a tender-hearted Father who wants to comfort you and heal your pain with the touch of His hand? Do you think of God as sympathetic toward your pain? It's very important to spend time in Scripture discovering this side of God because it's who He really is. He's not just the omnipotent (all-powerful) Maker of the universe; He's also kind and gracious. He loves His sons and daughters with a special love and He will one day show His affection for His family up close and personal, not from a veiled distance as it is now.
- B. **In my experience**—it's very common for Christians to think God is angry and disappointed with them to some degree. This is caused by a number of things, among them being a poor relationship with their earthly dad, neglect of Bible study, misinterpretation of difficult/tragic life circumstances ("God, if you were good, you would not have let 'this' happen.") For one reason or another, it's difficult for many Christians to actually believe that the most powerful Being in the cosmos is profoundly gentle, thoughtful and compassionate. Yet, this is really the truth of who God is.

III. Jesus.

John 11:33-36 (NIV) | ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

John 5:19 (NIV) | Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

- A. **Thought:** Could it be that Jesus wept because He saw His Father weeping, not just the crowd weeping?
- B. Either way, Jesus wept with those grieving Lazarus' death even though He knew He was going to resurrect Lazarus from the grave in just a moment. What this tells us is that God's omniscience doesn't render Him heartlessly unemotional or detached. He feels deeply even though He knows everything.
- C. In other words, Jesus showed us that God in the flesh deeply loves people and even weeps when they are hurting. In fact, the gospels record many instances in which Jesus was "moved with compassion" and healed the sick. He is not put off by your tears.

IV. One day...

- A. It's not clear why we're going to be crying when in the presence of God. I have my guesses. Perhaps we will be overcome by the unspeakable goodness of God. Perhaps 1,000 things will just dawn on us in the light of His majestic glory. Perhaps hearing the audible voice of our heavenly Dad will be too much for even our "upgraded" glorified body to handle. Perhaps there will be an element of regret we experience prior to that one final healing He gives to our heart when He touches us. It could be all of these and more.
- B. What we do know for sure is this: there's going to come a time in which God touches our cheeks and wipes away those tears of pain for the final time. We will never need to be comforted from trauma ever again for all eternity. We will no longer experience the "old order of things" like death, mourning, crying or pain. Let's live our life knowing God's tenderness and that the afflictions and difficulties we go through truly are momentary and light compared to the glory of what is before us for eternity (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

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 June 29, 2018

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. We're beginning what's called **Saturday Nights Ablaze**, which has a different emphasis each Saturday of the month, but is geared toward developing a greater passion for God and His Word. The 1st Saturday of the month is a young adult discipleship gathering. The 2nd Saturday of the month is a kids prayer time for children ages 2-10 (parents, drop them off and take a date night!). The 3rd-5th Saturday of the month is an adult prayer watch.
3. **Praise!** Kids Camp 2018 was a great success. 50 kids registered/showed up, exactly as we prayed!
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), 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 if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
7. **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), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
8. 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.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** 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.*