

I. Introduction.

A. I've been sharing for a few weeks on the theme of humility, which is probably the most essential character quality that you and I can pursue as Christians. I desire to raise up a community under the leadership of Jesus that learns to express love toward one another in a spirit of humility. **Part 1** touched on our attitude toward one another during the prayer meeting. **Part 2** touched on our attitude as it relates to remaining teachable as we learn more about God and His Word in greater depths. **Part 3** touched on what our attitude should be as we learn to hear God's voice, which is a result of our (private and corporate) prayer life. **Part 4** touched on how we avoid the ditch of hypocrisy, especially as leaders. **Tonight** we're looking at what humility looks like practically, when it's shining at its brightest, which is a willingness to lovingly serve those around us.

II. The biblical basis for personal humility.

Matthew 11:28-30 | ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

A. Jesus described Himself as being humble. If we're looking at Christ, we're looking at a humble Man.

Zephaniah 2:3 (NIV) | Seek the LORD (together), all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

B. Zephaniah the prophet tells us that humility isn't something that happens to us by accident. It's not something we get on the fly. It's something that we must consciously choose to go after in prayer and with our day to day lifestyle. It's something we're to think about, talk about, journal about, preach about, etc.

James 4:6 | But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

C. The more we go after humility, the more we become like what Jesus is like and reap the manifold benefits of having a heart like His (Matthew 11:29). One of the clearest biblical benefits of being humble is an increased measure of grace on our life.

III. The practical expression of humility—servanthood.

Luke 22:24-27 | ²⁴ Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵ And He said to them, "The kings (*political leaders*) of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' ²⁶ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. (Also read Mark 9:33-35.)

A. Jesus taught that humility involves serving those around us. As an aside, He also implied that serving one another is how we solve arguments as leaders and as friends. His disciples represented various apostolic movements and He showed Him how to remain in good and healthy relationship with one another.

B. Jesus showed us that humility is willing to serve in ways that nobody else will serve. Things that seem below us because of our reputation, position in life or the title on our business card—this has no place in the life of a disciple. Jesus washing feet was the most despised task of His culture. It was reserved for the slave of the home to do such a low-ranking chore. And yet He gladly did it.

C. Jesus exemplified for us that it's far superior to come low and be a servant of all instead of taking our seat at the table of self-appointed importance. (Think about what "all" means for a moment.)

D. What Jesus isn't saying here is that He supremely values people keeping busy with service and that His church would be doing much better if everyone took His example to keep busy with the work of the kingdom. What Jesus is saying here in this moment is that nothing should be below us. Scrubbing the toilet or picking gum off of the bottom of church folding chairs shouldn't be off limits. Whatever we think in our head that should be off limits for us shouldn't be off limits for us. And the higher we go in God (Jesus was and is the highest), the more we should gladly be willing to serve others in the most menial and lowly ways.

E. **Conclusion:** We see that Jesus was willing to do anything even though He was and is God. Are we willing to serve like this? **Story time:** The time a dear brother called me about praying for him for an hour. The time a dear sister called me to help her when her truck was stuck right before a major final. The time another dear sister was in a ditch late at night on a cold winter night and I was sick. And don't even get me started on two-hour car rides. I've got so many stories and yet I want to keep growing in the servant heart of Christ!

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 August 10, 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. **UPCOMING EVENTS:**
 - **Kids Prayer Night** kicks off this Saturday, August 11 from 5-8 p.m.! This is a chance for mom and dad to have a date night while the little kids (ages 2-10) spend time with Jesus, pray and have some fun. Kids Prayer Night is once per month every second Saturday of the month. Sign up on our website under Kids Camp if you plan to bring your kiddos!
 - **Pastor Nihad Salman** will be sharing with us during our August 17 Friday Encounter Night. Reverend Salman pastors the Immanuel Evangelical Church (IEC) in Bethlehem and has a remarkable testimony of God's faithfulness. You won't want to miss this gathering!
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 (@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.
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), kingdom business prayer groups (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.
9. **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 or our website (gphop.org/donate) 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.*