

**I. Introduction.**

- A. I've been studying Peter's letters recently and I was struck in a fresh way by his love for Jesus as an aged apostle now writing letters in order to help those he shepherds and cares for. Peter was writing toward the end of his life before he was martyred to persecuted Jewish Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). The letters are instructive and corrective; they both exhort and warn.
- B. Peter used the word "precious" eight times (NKJV) in his two letters and four of the times to describe Jesus. (See 1 Peter 1:19, 2:4, 2:6 and 2:7.) It's a word that means costly and very dear. The once young fisherman now an aged apostle and author couldn't help but repeatedly emphasize the immense treasure that is Christ.
- C. Peter's whole life is instructive to us in that it gives us a picture of what we will all go through in our walk with Christ as His followers. Any disciple must endure various seasons of passion and pain (ups and downs). Through it all, Jesus' intention is that we would be able to truthfully say as Peter did, "Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious."

**II. Times and seasons of passion and power.**

**Matthew 4:18-20** | <sup>18</sup> And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

- A. Imagine the joy and fervor Peter felt when Jesus said those words.
- **QUESTION:** Do you still remember when Jesus first called you and what it felt like? Do you remember that first few weeks and months after receiving Jesus? Do you remember times when the call of God on your life began to clarify? These are the best moments (and they fuel us the rest of our lives as we choose to remember them)!
- B. Try to imagine the excitement when Jesus began to send the disciples (including Peter) to do ministry with miraculous powers. (Luke 9:1-2)
- C. Think of the sheer bewilderment when the book of Acts began to unfold in real time when the Spirit was poured out in that upper room and Peter began to preach and thousands were getting saved. (Acts 2)

**III. Times and seasons of pain and perplexity.**

- A. Try to think of what Peter felt like when Jesus essentially called him Satan. (Mark 8:33)
- B. There was the very dark time when Peter betrayed Jesus three times and then He was crucified. (Luke 22:34, 61)
- C. There was the time when Paul confronted Peter sharply due to his hypocrisy regarding his interaction with Jews and Gentiles. (Galatians 2:11-16)
- D. The reality of constant persecution and martyrdom was a constant threat and people looked to Peter to know what to do.

**IV. All so that Jesus becomes everything to us.**

- A. The reality is that all of these aforementioned times and seasons are woven together throughout Peter's adult life. There were many incredible days, weeks and months, and many terrible days, weeks and months.
- B. Any true disciple of Jesus will face many, many times and seasons just like this. Don't be caught off guard when things go bad or unexpectedly (James 1:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:3). Seek God's perspective through it and to learn from it and keep going.
- C. To make it all the way to the end well, Jesus has to be precious to me and you. He has to be our first priority. Jesus is to be everything. The main point I'd like to leave you with this evening is to understand that this is how Jesus the Great Shepherd leads us so that He's the most dear treasure to our heart above all else in this world—there's both passion/power and pain/perplexity.
- **FINAL QUESTION:** Is Jesus more precious to you today than when you first believed? Either way, let's pray and ask Jesus right now that He would be!

*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 May 3, 2019.

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:** Guys night tomorrow evening if interested; Kids Prayer Night, Saturday, May 11; and Kids Camp in June! I'm also planning a HOP leader event which will be either Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup>. More to come!
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 [mandy@gphop.org](mailto:mandy@gphop.org) 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); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead 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](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), 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](mailto: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](http://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.*