

I. Introduction:

- A. As a house of prayer ministry, I think it's helpful to review every once in awhile the concept of house of prayer, and what it's implications are for us in ministry today.

II. The four biblical "house of prayer" statements.

Isaiah 56:7 | Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

- A. Isaiah was the first and only Old Testament figure to use the term "house of prayer." Interestingly, only two people in the whole Bible use the term "house of prayer" (Isaiah and Jesus).
- B. Isaiah associated the house of prayer with joy. Isaiah also spoke prophetically as the house of prayer being "for all nations" which meant non-Jews, not just the Jewish people exclusively. This foreshadows the Gentiles being part of God's redemptive plan in general, and with regard to prayer.

Matthew 21:13 | And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

- C. Jesus quoted Isaiah, and then attached the correction from Jeremiah to the end of it (Jeremiah 7:11). Where prayer was supposed to be, corrupt business dealings had become normative. Do you think there is a similar issue today?

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'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

- D. Mark touches on the same as Matthew, but also adds the "for all nations" part from Isaiah. Again, a reference to Gentiles.

Luke 19:46 | saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

- E. The word "is" sticks out to me here. Matthew and Mark spoke of it "shall be" or "will be (one day)" whereas Mark plainly write that it is (or, exists now) as a house of prayer. The house of prayer is both something that is, and will be. Now, and then.

III. Isaiah's temple and Jesus' temple.

- A. During Isaiah's ministry, the first temple (Solomon's temple) existed. Isaiah began his ministry in approximately 740 BC, and the temple was destroyed by Babylon in 586 BC.
- B. During Jesus' ministry, the second temple (Herod's temple) existed. Jesus began His ministry in approximately 30 AD, and the temple was destroyed by Rome in 70 AD.

IV. Contemporary applications.

- A. Throughout the Bible, the temple was the central place of worship among the Jewish people. For Isaiah to call it a place of prayer, and then for Jesus to confirm that it was a place of prayer is an extraordinary statement. One of the applications we draw from this is that prayer is to be the central activity of worship among God's people. We typically do not think of prayer as worship, but that is what Isaiah and Jesus state.
- B. Any Christian church or ministry today is to seek to emulate this value. Preaching, singing, music, evangelism, fellowship, etc. are all an important aspects of church life, but prayer is to be at the center of it all. Certainly, music and singing can be forms of prayer, and that is important to understand as well. Sometimes, however, many people are just singing along instead of talking or singing to God. Many gatherings today have great music and solid teaching, but prayer is very minimal. The enemy does not mind if we do everything except pray.

V. Concluding thoughts.

- A. Come on out once a week to the GPHOP, or be a part of/start a weekly/regular gathering at your church. Also, prayerfully consider financially supporting the GPHOP. We are believing for 80 individuals, families or organizations to partner at \$100 per month in 2023. This would ensure our budget is sufficiently covered.

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 January 27, 2023.

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 a.m. - noon. 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:** We pray from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Come on out! Visit gphop.org/school for more information.
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 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** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** 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 the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany. **Kyle Nix**, stationed in Lackland Air Force Base in Bexar County, Texas.
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. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We're making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.
8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** 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 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. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*