

I. Introduction:

- A. Before I get into the message tonight, I want to state that it's my holy ambition to learn and teach through literally every verse in the Bible about prayer in my lifetime. From the very first verses in the Bible, to the very last, we see prayer to be of immense importance. I wanted to state that as a goal of mine, and also to perhaps explain why it seems I'm covering "random" prayer topics at times. It's all part of a larger plan to get as much biblical understanding as I can on this most worthy subject.
- B. The prayer of Agur has caught my attention in the last few years, and it has some critical truth in it that's applicable to us today. Tonight, I want to simply put it on your radar as it's probably one of those Scriptures you've never really noticed or ever heard preached before. You may recall *The Prayer of Jabez* book that really took off years ago. It got all sorts of attention. Similarly, I believe prayers like the prayer of Agur, as well as others, will continue to gain prominence as the Holy Spirit teaches Jesus' church worldwide how to pray. Nothing in the Bible is unimportant, and especially as it pertains to prayer.

II. The prayer of Agur:

Proverbs 30:7-9 | ⁷ Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): ⁸ Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; ⁹ Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

- A. Agur is talking to two others named Ithiel and Ucal when it appears he sort of stops to pray. At least, he makes known a prayer of his that was important enough for him to mention. It's the only prayer we have of him and the only time Agur is mentioned in the Bible. You get the idea that it's his most important prayer. Of course, it's inspired of the Holy Spirit just as the rest of Scripture is.
- B. The two requests of Agur's prayer are essentially for honesty and modesty—a love for truth and a humble life of modest means.

III. "Remove falsehood and lies from me." (Agur's first request was for something to be removed or subtracted.)

- A. As we mature in our faith, we are more deeply committed to being honest, and we value what is true. This obviously touches almost everything we do in life.
- B. Pray for grace to be honest, and to love what is true (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
- C. Being dishonest, deceitful and unrepentant about lying can have very drastic consequences (i.e., Ananias and Saphira). "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." — Mark Twain
- D. Conspiracy theories: there are all sorts of conspiracy theories, partial truths, half-truths, etc. out there in the media and the Internet that believers need to learn how to remove themselves from. Remove yourself from toxic conversations (online or offline) that have nothing to do with you. Many Christians spend far too much time in all the wrong conversations and narratives.

Philippians 4:8 | Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on (i.e., think about) these things.

IV. "Give me neither poverty nor riches." (Agur's second request was for something to be given or added.)

- A. This is perhaps one of the wisest prayers in the Bible. Asking God for enough—not too much, and not too little—guards people from the pitfalls of both the illicit lifestyle that poverty brings about (crime, selling drugs, etc.) as well as the excessive lifestyle that riches brings about (leisure, greed, etc.).
- B. As Christians in America, we have the unique temptation to become focused on wealth. It's never been easier to make a lot of money, but the pursuit of riches remains a perilous life focus. The "side hustle" mentality can easily become idolatrous. What if God wants you to have a little less money and materials, but more time for Him and things that matter for eternity?
- C. The Bible is full of warnings about being wealthy. There is a unique temptation that excessive money brings that ensnares the heart and makes it difficult to follow Jesus the way the Bible says to. Financial blessing is an immense responsibility that very few people steward well. Even Solomon, in all of his wisdom, was trapped by it. Wealth is granted to increase giving, not living.
- D. God is calling His church to modesty of living and radical generosity just like the early church. Even if you have a small home and a couple of beat up cars, you are living more materially blessed than most generations of world history could have ever fathomed.

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 February 3, 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.*