

## I. Introduction.

A. Tonight we're going to continue along the theme of becoming a loving spiritual family—both here at the GPHOP and as a larger spiritual family among all the ministries and churches throughout central Illinois.

**Matthew 12:46-50** (NIV) | <sup>46</sup> While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. <sup>47</sup> Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." <sup>48</sup> He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" <sup>49</sup> Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

B. Jesus makes clear that there's an individual responsibility to do the will of God that makes us His "brother and sister and mother," which is to say family. The only way we feel like family is when we all commit to doing the will of God, which is both objective and also subjective.

## II. Becoming family by doing the will of God.

A. Many Christians ask, "What's God's will for my life?" Well, there are three Bible verses that say exactly what it is. Let's take a look...

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** | For this is the will of God, **your sanctification**: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; (*also see v. 7*)

- The will of God is not mostly about location, education or certification—it's about sanctification. It's about becoming like Jesus—rooted and ground in love. (*Ephesians 3:17-19*)

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** | **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- It's possible to be thankful for everything. When bad things happen try saying, "Thank you Jesus that it wasn't worse!"

**1 Peter 2:15** | For this is the will of God, that by **doing good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— (*also see v. 12*)

- Learning to respond to people (both Christian and non-Christian) who have a bad spirit or even malicious intentions can get really tricky. Sometimes people just go through really rough, dark patches and yet we're still asked to do good to them. We must resist a retaliatory attitude at all costs, especially when dealing with unreasonable people or when relationships go south. It's so easy to become bitter and vengeful and not even know it! (Luke 9:55) The best way to keep our heart in a right place (guard our heart) is by proactively doing good to people. We're to take action in some way.

B. We see by these verses that God's will is a commitment to sexual purity, a spirit of gratitude and a resolve to do good in the face of ignorance and foolishness. There are many other great verses that reference the will of God (i.e. Romans 12:2 and Colossians 1:9), but these three in particular are great, I think, because they say precisely, "This is the will of God." That's as clear as it gets!

C. These are what I would consider the objective will of God verses. They're how we get the railcar of our character on the railroad tracks, so to speak, and progress in Christlikeness.

D. As we obey what God speaks to us through His Word (the Scriptures), He unfolds more of His subjective will for our personal life, family, ministry, etc.

E. I'm calling all of us to be pure, thankful and committed to doing good so we keep our heart in the will of God and grow as a spiritual family. Let's pray into this for ourselves and the church in central Illinois and beyond.

*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 October 19, 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:** Our annual **Hear + Obey** citywide prophetic gathering is November 2-3. Please sign up online at [gphop.org/events](http://gphop.org/events) if you plan to attend!
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 [mandykistner@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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.*