

October 26, 2014
Thanksgiving and Prayer
(Warriors)

Roots

Philippians 1:3-5 – *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

The Philippians were a great benefit to Paul. From collecting money and sending it to him to suffering with him through prayer and persecution, they were certainly his partners. So here in his greeting to them, Paul exercises his right to be thankful for and boast about the Philippians. But, his bragging isn't in the Philippians alone, but if we read further we read that it is in Christ who began their good work in them.

It is okay to be thankful for the good things we have in life, and boast in the God who gave them to us. Today, I am thankful for all of the wonderful things that happened yesterday, at the Fall Festival and the Country Store. Not necessarily because of the people that we served, which is most certainly a good thing, but right now because I am very proud of you all. You showed servant hearts, the dedication of disciples and lots of love in volunteering your time and skills to serve the community.

So, I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day I arrived until now and looking to the future. I now have another request of you.

I want you to be *Tree of Life* "Prayer Warriors." God invites us through Paul to pray ceaselessly, and I am asking you to joyfully receive that invitation and become prayer warriors, people who pray for everything.

This week we are going to exercise our discipleship by picking one family that we know from somewhere in life and lift them up in prayer. It can be someone you are related to, a family that hasn't been to *Tree* in a while, or just a family that you know that is in need. Whoever they are, I want you to pray for them every day this week, and if you can call them to check in with them at least once. That is all it takes to be a prayer warrior.

I will tell you the family for whom I am praying. It's you! My family here at *Tree of Life*. Now, I need you to pray for someone else. Pray for their faith, pray for their health, pray for their safety and pray that they become partners in the gospel of Christ, too.

Thank you for your help in all the areas of ministry that we undertake here at *Tree*. I love to see your hearts come out and shine the light of Christ as they did this weekend. You are all a blessing and I am very thankful for you and your partnership with me in the Gospel. Thank you for being great disciples. God's peace.

Pastor  