

Counting Your Blessings in Community

Philippians 1:3–9 (NIV)

“3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me.

8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

1. Community Gives You Reasons to Thank God

Philippians 1:3–4 (NIV)

“I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.”

Cross-References (NIV)

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (NIV)

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.”

Colossians 1:3–4 (NIV)

“3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people.”

Supporting Points

- **A. Gratitude grows when you remember the people God placed around you.**
- **B. Prayer becomes joyful when it includes people you love.**
- **C. Community lets you see testimonies you’re not living personally.**
- **D. Gratitude multiplies when shared.**

2. Community Shows You God's Ongoing Work

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Cross-References (NIV)

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Supporting Points

- **A. Spiritual growth is a process that God personally guides.**
- **B. Community helps you see your growth when you can't.**
- **C. God's work in us is connected to His work in others.**
- **D. Testimonies prove God is active today.**

3. Community Creates a Shared Mission

Primary Text: Philippians 1:7 (NIV)

"It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me."

Cross-References (NIV)

Philippians 4:14–15 (NIV)

"14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles."

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only.”

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)

“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

Supporting Points

- **A. Community is partnership, not just attendance.**
- **B. Serving together creates unity faster than sitting together.**
- **C. Community supports you in spiritual battles.**
- **D. Mission gives gratitude a purpose.**

4. Community Deepens Your Love

Philippians 1:8–9 (NIV)

“8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.”

Cross-References (NIV)

John 13:34–35 (NIV)

“34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.”

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Supporting Points

- **A. Gratitude feeds affection.**
- **B. Community teaches you how to love beyond differences.**
- **C. Love is the true measure of maturity.**
- **D. A loving community becomes a witness to the world.**

Conclusion

Philippians 1:3–9 shows that gratitude flourishes in community.

When you count blessings in community:

- You thank God for the people He planted in your life.
- You see spiritual growth you would've missed.
- You find partners for the gospel mission.
- You grow in deep, Christ-shaped love.

A thankful community becomes a united community. A united community becomes a strong community. A strong community becomes a shining community.