

***“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” ~Colossians 2:6-7***

My son was walking to a friend’s house one day this week with his assistance dog. The neighbor’s dog saw them and jumped its fence intent on attacking. My son desperately tried to separate the two dogs. His dog was clipped to a leash that encircled my son’s waist so she couldn’t escape. An older woman driving by saw what was happening and called 911; meanwhile, she jumped out of her truck and began hitting the aggressive dog with a piece of 2 x 4. The dog remained unfazed and continued its vicious assault. In the middle of it all, my son had a seizure and lay helpless in the grass, with his dog still clipped to the leash around his waist. At this point, I was still oblivious to the drama unfolding. Another neighbor ran to our house and banged on the door. When I opened it, I saw the elderly man there, clearly upset telling me that my boy needed help. Somehow my son’s dog had gotten free, and as I rounded the corner of our house at a run, I saw the two dogs fighting at our back door. I called our dog and was able to let her in the front door and slam it shut before the other dog could get in. I then ran back to where my son lay, covered in blood and surrounded by police officers.

I can tell you that there have been few days in my life when I’ve been as scared as I was that day. That evening I went to church for our mid-week service where the lesson focused on these verses from Colossians. We were encouraged to say one thing we were thankful for. I realized how thankful I was for so many things about that day. We live just a few blocks away from the police station. We have neighbors who care and are willing to jump in to help. My son and his dog received only minor injuries. The outcome of this story could have been so much worse.

How many times do we focus on the negative things around us and our circumstances and fail to acknowledge God’s gifts and protection of us with thankfulness? If our faith is strong in the truth, we should be overflowing with gratitude to our God. What are you thankful for this week?