

Thanksgiving Message

[Video]

Some say, "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." The heart is a place where unforgettable joys, kindness, hospitality, and positive memories experienced in the past are deeply engraved. As the memory of the heart, gratitude reminds us of these precious memories and emotions that are often buried in the depths of time. They come alive when we are grateful. Do you have good memories that come to mind during this Thanksgiving season? Maybe Turkey?

When Thanksgiving approaches, I recall the Harvest Contest held at my hometown church during my childhood. Many church members brought various fruits, from large pumpkins and delicious cabbages to ripe persimmons and bananas, which were considered 'noble fruits' in Korea at that time. We placed them at the altar and these fruits of the year displayed the richness of autumn and abundance of God's blessing.

Of course, we decided on the winner of the contest. While the gifts for the Harvest Contest were modest, such as toilet paper and laundry detergent, I remember the excitement of the winner. BTW, I have never won the contest.

After the Harvest Contest, many people dedicated the fruits or rice they submitted to the church. On the evening of that day, I helped my mother carry rice and fruit to deliver them to the homes of the poor church members in a poor neighboring village. We had to cross a polluted stink stream and a dark alley under the railroad to get there. The round trip took about an hour. I am pretty sure that no kids would enjoy walking on that road, however, I didn't mind walking that path with my mother. Perhaps it was because I could feel the abundance of the harvest and the warmth of the love shared with others. When Thanksgiving comes, those memories come to my mind. I believe that all of you have warm and precious memories of Thanksgiving. I pray that this Thanksgiving will become another beautiful memory of gratitude to fill your hearts. I also would like express my deepest gratitude to my Asbury family. You have worked really hard for God's ministry and showed what a loving Christian community looks like. You have made my journey bright and happy. Thank you and have a blessed Thanksgiving! Amen.