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Celebrate a Victory!

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True Parents established a tradition to hold a celebration for praising a victory after having brought a victory of the providence. They held celebrations for praising victories after the Coronation Ceremony of God's Kingship, and recently, after they finished the 12-city speaking tour in America. What can we learn from the tradition of holding a celebration for praising a victory, which True Parents established? It teaches us that it is important for our spiritual life to celebrate a victory whenever we bring a victory in our daily life. The celebration is not simply for celebrating OUR victory. It is an opportunity for being thankful to those who helped us for the victory and for giving back the glory to God and True Parents. Through the celebration, we can confirm that God is together with us in our life. Therefore, to hold a celebration is really an important tradition in our life.

The term "celebration" originates in the meaning "to gather and give back the glory." We need to praise the glory of heaven with one heart in our life. When we get up in the morning, the day given by heaven is a masterpiece of God. We sometimes succeed and sometimes fail in our life, but our life is very precious itself because our life is a masterpiece of God.

At Luke 15:11-32, Jesus talked about a story that a prodigal son comes back. According to the story, one son who has already received one third of his father's property went out to another nation, and used up all the money there. The son suffered a lot in a difficult life, and finally came back. The son came back not to beg his father's pardon but to ask his father to let him his slave because he committed too many sins. When such a son came back, his father shouted "Oh, my son!" and ran to him to give him a tight hug. His father gave him

good clothes, shoes, and a good ring, and held a big party.

From this story, what can we learn? When the father saw his son come back, he did not focus on his son's failure. He thought that the fact his son came back itself was "God's blessing and victory." He was deeply moved by the fact that he found his son again.

Of course, it is true that this meeting did not erase the son's failure and the father's disappointment toward the son in the past. The Bible does not state that the prodigal son who returned inherits more property from his father or his elder brother. The important thing here is the fact that the father has asked heaven to let his prodigal son come back, and the fact that at the joyful moment when the prodigal son came back, the father expressed his thankful heart and glorified heaven through holding a celebration. It is very important in our life to beg heaven earnestly: "Oh God, please give me wisdom in this morning. Please give me wisdom in order to bring a good result," "Father, there is an obstacle I have to overcome today. Please give me a power to overcome the obstacle," "At this moment today, please give us a power with which we can focus on thinking of our positive points rather than just focusing on our negative points."

God is the God of goodness. He wants to give a power to His children and help His children. So beg heaven with sincere heart. Please establish a tradition that when we achieve even a small thing in our daily life, we can praise and celebrate the victory. However, we should be careful that we need to be grateful to heaven and glorify heaven first: "God, I am grateful that You gave me a power, courage, and wisdom for my bringing great victory today." When a person who has a habit of

complaining could less complain to the husband and children, or the wife today, please be grateful to God. If we celebrate a good result we attained for the sake of ourselves, we might become arrogant. We always need to encourage ourselves and give a power to ourselves, but we should also be grateful to God and give back the glory to God who guided us to the victorious way.

If I ask you to find those who wear a blue shirt in this chapel, only persons who wear a blue shirt come into your sight. It is human's psychology. What we find comes into our sight first. Therefore, we need to focus on good things in our life. If we focus on negative things, our life will also flow into negative direction. Let's find something small rather than big, see it positively, and be thankful for it. To be thankful for the fact that I am now breathing, the fact that I can walk now, and the fact that I can make something using my hands- it is an important training to be thankful for these things.

Let's Discover a Small but Precious Victory in Our Daily Life

The fact that our children study at school and grow well is a victory itself. The fact that we are thankful for the children's growth is a victory. If husband and wife talk understanding with each other more, it is a victory. Let's discover such a small but a precious victory, and celebrate it. When your child does a good thing, please say to them, "As you did such a thing, father and mother are very proud of you. You are the best." Such a single word will give a power to make the child's life more bright and positive.

We have a schedule to visit Japan once a month. When we go to Japan, we pass a night at a local church, and get up at 2:30 am. Then, with our members, we do a meditation, 100 bows, Hoon Dok Hae, and giving testimonies. Then, we move to another local church to have a meeting, and take pictures with the local members. At 3:00 pm, the busy morning schedule from early in the morning finishes.

I and staffs are exhausted. However, at the time, I and my wife enter into a room to have a tea time. Easily speaking, we celebrate small victories until then. Being thankful to my wife for working together beside me, I say to her, "I can get a power

because you are with me." Through this, we can get a new power. This small ceremony we prepare in a busy schedule gives us the great power. After the ceremony, we visit blessed families, which are the scenes of our beloved Japanese members.

To Give Back the Glory to God and True Parents

We have to remember one thing when we celebrate a victory. It is that a celebration of a victory is not a thing against conscience or what we feel guilty, but should give a power to our soul. In order to do that, when we celebrate a victory, we should always remember God and True Parents, and offer the gratitude and glory to them. If we could do it, we will be able to bring more victories in our life. Also, we will be able to keep a more humble heart in front of the victory, giving back the glory to God who had prepared 95% behind us.

What can we learn from today's sermon? It is that to celebrate a victory is important for our spiritual life. The tradition of celebrating a victory, which True Parents established, is a really precious tradition. When you bring some victory, when your wife or husband brings a victory, or when your child brings a victory, please celebrate it even though the victory looks small and trivial. Even though it would be impossible to prepare a cake every time, please be interested in even a small victory, praise it, and celebrate it. In case that we focus on negative things in our life, strangely, we continuously discover many negative things one after another. We need to start discovering more bright and positive things in our life. Of course, we need to fix our negative points. However, please do not see them too much. Please discover the blessings which heaven prepared for us.

When we achieved even a small thing, we have to know how to encourage us and praise us. At the same time, we have to remember God and True Parents who made us bring the victory, and offer our gratitude and glory to them. I believe that when we live in this way, we will get more victories, more enlightenment, and more peaces in our life. I believe that if we could live in such a way, we will be able to live our lives of the blessing, which True Parents gave us. **(From the monthly *Tongil Segae*, January 2008)**