

Special Grace Ceremony

By Christian Nseka

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Watch videos on Special Grace Ceremony found on the [BFM's website](#):

1. Presentation by Crescentia DeGoede
2. Presentation by Ayako Heller

As indicated on the videos by Crescentia and Ayako, the Special Grace that we have received is very special. One reason, I think that it is special, is that it is the first time that we have been given Holy Salt, Holy Candle, Holy Wine, and Holy Earth simultaneously.

Why have we been given these four items at the same time? It is my understanding that these holy items have been given to us as a unit because of the progress of the providence, but, also, because we are tribal messiahs and need to carry out our responsibilities. All that we used to have before in our possession was holy candles, different kinds of them, and holy salt. And sometimes Holy Wine. But as tribal messiahs, given that we are supposed to restore our tribes and build Cheon Il Guk, we need not only the holy candle and holy salt, but also the holy wine and holy earth. It is my understanding that True Mother has done it like this to set the condition upon which to claim victory in 2020. This victory will not be True Parents' victory alone; it will be our victory too. We are co-owners. This is why, in order for us to inherit these holy items, we had to meet True Mother halfway, so to speak. Building on the foundation of leadership left by our True Father, True Mother established the condition upon which the CIG Holy Items could be bequeathed to us. She asked us to do a forty-day condition in order to inherit this blessing.

Any blessing we receive from God, whether it is marriage blessing or any other, is a grace. It is a grace because it lifts us to a higher level. It pulls us into a different realm. For that, we need a cleansing condition. And the cleansing condition is the drinking of the Holy Wine. During the marriage blessing, we drink the Holy Wine to change the blood lineage. It may be the Holy Wine from the same container, but its meaning or purpose during the marriage blessing is to change the blood lineage. However, the purpose of the Cheon Il Guk Holy Wine that we drank during Special Grace Ceremony

was to register us in this new stage of the era of Cheon Il Guk after we have celebrated the fourth anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa.

As Ayako mentioned, we drank Foundation Day Holy Wine three years ago. Some people may ask, "We are drinking Holy Wine for Cheon Il Guk again? What happened to the Holy Wine we drank in 2013? Wasn't that for Cheon Il Guk?" Well, let me ask you this: Who went to Washington, DC yesterday? The bus driver took I-95. Right? How many times did the bus driver pay the toll? I don't know exactly how many times but I know that the bus driver paid the toll more than once. Why would the bus driver pay the toll more than once? Wasn't the bus still on I-95? What happened to the first toll that the bus driver paid? Shouldn't that toll be enough for the whole trip?

I-95 is a long highway that crosses several states. Anytime a driver crosses a state line on I-95, he/she will cross a toll booth. My point is that when I-95 changes from New Jersey Turnpike to Delaware Turnpike, for instance, a driver who is driving on that highway will have to pay the toll to gain the right to drive on that section of I-95. It is still I-95, but it is no longer New Jersey Turnpike. It is now Delaware Turnpike. Same thing will happen when I-95 goes from Delaware Turnpike to John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway in Maryland.

By analogy, the Cheon Il Guk providence in particular can be looked at as an expressway or an interstate highway. In this case, it makes sense that at every different stage of the Cheon Il Guk providence, something resembling the toll is necessary for us to gain or maintain privilege or status.

In other words, a condition is required of us anytime we are to enter a new stage of the providence. Hence, the recent Cheon Il Guk Holy Wine ceremony. Those who will participate in the next Holy Marriage Blessing will drink this same Holy Wine, but with a different purpose. Once again, because, for those people, they will be entering a new stage of the providence in their lives—they will be going from individual-hood to family-hood. It will be a change of blood lineage.

So in a sense, it is good that we had another special grace ceremony recently because that means that we are making progress. That we are getting somewhere whether or not we feel it. Whether or not we see it when we look at the world around us.

Now that we have drunk the CIG Holy Wine and inherited the CIG Holy Items, what is it required of us? Unity. Unity with our central figure. Unity with our brothers and sisters. Unity with our spouse. Unity with our children.

As the central figure of the providence in the physical realm, True Mother's desire and objective is to lead us to the realization of the ideal of Cheon Il Guk.

Going back to the analogy of Washington, DC and I-95, getting us to Washington, DC safely and on time was the mission of each of the drivers of the buses that the church rented. For us to get to Washington, DC safely, we had to unite with the driver of the bus we were on. How? By letting the driver do his job peacefully. If we started to argue with the driver for some reason, we would have probably not gotten to Washington, DC. If our bus driver started to argue with other drivers on the road, we would have probably not gotten to Washington, DC. Once again, unity. What else? Our attitude.

Sometimes we may feel as if nothing is happening. We have sacrificed, we have loved our spouses unconditionally, we have been drinking Holy Wine over and over, fasting over and over, done many kyombaes over and over, but things seem to get worse. "There is no hope. Why bother?" We might say.

Let me just tell you this: Do not despair. Do not give up. God's will will be fulfilled. However, it cannot be fulfilled without me and you. Think about the time when God wanted the Israelites to take over Jericho. Imagine their excitement the time that they geared up and went to take over Jericho (Joshua 6:1-21). Little they knew, that would be the first of many such trips. They went on marching around the city for seven days. Imagine if after the third or fourth day some of them said, "Well, Joshua, we have been doing the same thing for days now. Nothing is happening. We don't see the point in this." What do you think would have happened? Can anybody say for certain that nothing was happening? Though it was not visible, something was definitely happening. This is why, on the seventh day, victory was won. They did the same thing over and over, with faith and unity, in order to make God's providence a success. They maintained a positive attitude.

Let us take this further. Think of the time that God wanted to liberate the Israelites from Egypt. Their workload got worse and their situation

miserable as every time that Moses went to talk to the Pharaoh. Do you think that's how God wanted it to happen? The reason it happened like that did not necessarily have to do with the Pharaoh or the Egyptians. It also had to do with the Israelites. How united were they with Moses? How united were they with God's will?

Yesterday, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Washington Monument Rally. Last Sunday, we conducted the Special Grace Ceremony. We have four years until the year 2020. For us to make sure that we bring victory, or at least set a condition that our True Parents can claim, we need to take it day by day. Hence, we need to maintain a positive attitude. An attitude of gratitude. Everyday. As Cresencia mentioned in the video, let's monitor our heart and mindset. Everyday.

This morning, as I was coming to church, there was a lady who cut in front of me as I was approaching the toll booth at the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel. She cut in front of me and then stopped at the booth. I was in an EZ-Pass lane. It turned out that the lady did not have an EZ-Pass. I could see her reaching for her purse in her passenger seat. She took her purse, got the cash out and handed it to the police officer who was standing there. The police officer then went to the cash lane, paid for her, came back to the EZ-Pass lane, gave the lady the change, and then lifted the gate for her. All this took some time. From the time I saw her reach for her purse, I felt a burst of impatience (not to say rage). I was about to blow my horn. Then I realized that I was going to speak about attitude of gratitude, positive attitude, etc. in my sermon. I got hold of myself and let everything go its course. I got to church late, but everything worked out just fine.

The dedication, the heart, and the attitude that we had when we were doing the forty-day conditions before the fourth anniversary of our True Father's Seonghwa should not stay in the past. Let us carry the same mindset, the same heart, the same attitude of gratitude, the same resolve as we go on living with and for our spouses, our children, our community, our nation, our True Parents, and our Heavenly Parent.

This is our moment to make a difference. This is our moment to make God's providence a success. Let us not forget who we are and what we have. Thank you.
Let's pray.