



## **#796 Grateful Hearts!**

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America observes a set aside Day of Thanksgiving the last Thursday of November each year since President Lincoln made it an official holiday in 1863. Not every President since then has officially sanctioned it, but, Americans as a whole do and other countries have joined in since many already had a harvest-fest time. Churches are usually open for morning worship services.

It was early autumn of 1621 when the 53 surviving Pilgrims celebrated their successful harvest in the new land as was the English custom to have a harvest celebration meal. History records they knelt in the snow that first Thanksgiving Day. Indian friends joined them. My mother's family were Cherokee and when I think of the Indians who celebrated that first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims, I see Grace at its best. The great Indian leader, Massasoit, joined the group with 90 of his men. What a statement of grace when the settlers had moved onto lands that were previously owned by Indian families.



How many families and friends have to "lay down the guns and tomahawks" to sit down to a meal of Thanksgiving and gratitude together. Church members and Christian organizations sometimes have "ruffled feathers" and need to extend Grace to one another before grabbing hands to enjoy sweet fellowship together with grateful hearts. A Thanksgiving meal or service is a good time for us to "lay down our weapons" and focus on our God and His great blessings on our lives, Amen! What a wonderful day to honor Him with unity in our hearts.

As the Day set aside for expressing Thanksgiving to God approaches, invite the Spirit of Grace and the Spirit of Gratitude to flood your heart and soul. All of us have people we have felt disconnected from and it is time to mend relationships by seeing one another with His eyes of Love and Grace. Maybe you live alone or maybe it has been a tough financial year for you. It doesn't matter what the menu is. The first Pilgrims probably had deer meat, nuts, corn, and berries. Have a potluck and let everyone bring something. One celebration we had just moved and our furniture hadn't arrived so I asked everyone to bring a chair, their dinner plate, silverware, and a casserole or whatever. We had a wonderful time. Just ask the Lord for a creative plan. However He leads, there is no need to be alone or go on formality. Extend Grace... Grab hands... Share what you have and receive what others offer... and together set up an atmosphere to fellowship and express gratitude to the Lord of the Harvest of souls and provision! Hallelujah. We are thankful for YOU!

***Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another according to Christ Jesus that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify [express Thanksgiving to] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6.***