



Thanksgiving 2009
Unity South Church

Dear One,

As Thanksgiving draws near, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on our journey together here at Unity South. We can all sense that there is beautiful energy percolating in our spiritual community, thanks to the quality, texture and colorful hues each of you bring. I am grateful for the Divine guidance that brought me here, and I am absolutely sure that we will do great things together with God's partnership and help. So to each of you, I simply want to say, ***thank you!***

One of the most beautiful lines I have ever read is the title of a book by Iyanla Vanzant: **“One Day My Soul Just Opened Up.”** What a powerful, lovely image! There is something magical about the thought of a soul opening up. We may never know how to induce such an opening, but leaning towards gratitude without reason – now at Thanksgiving, but also year-round – is good preparation for such a miracle.

Recently I came upon an old scribble of mine that said, in effect, *‘if you need a miracle in your life, let a spirit of praise and gratitude accelerate your miracle.’* Indeed, a soul opens itself to miracles when it stays focused on gratitude, or ‘counting its blessings.’ In truth, gratitude nourishes the soul, making the heart stronger and magnetic.

While it has been a difficult year for many, and for our country and the world, we must remember that we still have a lot for which to be thankful. Let's focus on gratitude, and celebrate Thanksgiving, not only because we are so blessed, but also because it is the healthiest way to live. It is the soul's proper and natural disposition.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your dear ones!

Love,

Festus