



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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## the *Sweet Smell* and the BLESSING

*Message preached on Sunday Morning, May 11, 2025*

### Galatians 3:13,14,29

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written,  
***Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***  
14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.  
29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We've been talking about the BLESSING.

When Jesus went to the cross...***He reversed the curse*** and brought us back into the BLESSING, and how we were created to live.

**NOTE:** In Genesis 1 it is clear that mankind was created to live in the BLESSING. Yet, sin activated the curse...which this world is still under.

**HOWEVER:** Not all of the world...those who are in Christ Jesus are NOT under the curse, but live in the BLESSING.

### Exodus 15:22-26

- 22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.  
23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.  
24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?  
25 And he cried unto the LORD; ***and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet:*** there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,  
26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

**NOTICE:** That which was bitter (the curse) was made sweet (the BLESSING), by the tree (cross)!

***That is the way it is with your life...God created your life to be SWEET, not bitter.***

***To release SWEETNESS, not complaining.***

Genesis 8:21 – “And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.”

**NOTICE:** The flood had receded...they are now off the boat...the first thing they do is bring an offering to God (of every clean animal)...an offering of gratitude and love...

**QUESTION:** What did God smell?

**ANSWER:** That sweet savor/odor.

**QUESTION:** What did God say when He smelled that sweet odor?

**ANSWER:** I will not curse again.

**UNDERSTAND:** Where God smells that sweet smell...it is a place where the BLESSING flows. Where increase resides. Where the curse cannot come!

***Where there is a sweet fragrance, the curse cannot operate.***

A couple weeks ago I taught on our response to the BLESSING is praise...and I agree with that...

**HOWEVER:** I will also say that the **SWEET ODOR** is an attractor to the BLESSING...to the goodness (sweetness) of God.

**UNDERSTAND:** The concept of a sweet odor means that...

- ~ it brings the recipient pleasure...
- ~ it gets their attention...
- ~ the recipient will do whatever they can do to make that sweetness continue (green thumb).

## What is a Sweet Odor to God?

In Scripture we see three basic things that are sweet odors to the Lord.

### 1.) Praise is a sweet fragrance.

Psalm 147:1 – “Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.”

- ~ It is TOWB to sing praises (towb is good/sweet).
- ~ **“Pleasant”** – sweet

**BELOVED:** Praise is sweet to the Lord.

In the tabernacle (temple)...the last thing before the Veil was the Altar of Incense...never to be stopped...continual mix of spices offered to God...when raised up would usher them into the presence of God.

Exodus 30:7-9

**BELOVED:** What a picture of praise...as a sweet fragrance.

James 3:10-11

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

What comes out of your mouth? Blessing or cursing? Praise or griping?

**UNDERSTAND:** Where the TREE is...only BLESSING.

**ESSENTIAL POINT:** When we are talking about these SWEET SMELLS, we are not talking about a simple gesture...we are talking about ALL OF US.

Praise is more than a song...it is a GIVING of ourselves in praise.

- ~ David danced with all his might (2 Samuel 6:14).

2 Corinthians 2:15 – “**For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ**, in them that are saved, and in them that perish.”

It is a **giving of ourselves** in praise.

## 2.) Giving is a sweet fragrance.

Philippians 4:18 – “But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.”

It was their offerings (giving) that God said was sweet.

In the Old Testament...whenever an offering was brought and burned...it was considered a sweet smell (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, etc.).

Acts 10:4 – Cornelius’ prayers and ALMS (giving) rose as a memorial to God. It got God’s attention...and Cornelius was not even born again.  
God gave a vision to Peter to come to Cornelius’ house!

**ESSENTIAL POINT:** The sweetness isn’t about just the money...it is about YOU...your HEART, giving of yourself. Does it cost you?

~ David said he would not give to God anything that did not cost him (2 Samuel 24:24).

## 3.) Prayer is a sweet fragrance.

Psalms 141:2 – “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

**(BBE)** – “Let my prayer be ordered before you like a sweet smell; and let the lifting up of my hands be like the evening offering.”

**BELOVED:** Let me say this simply...God loves our fellowship with Him.

The sweet odor is us talking with Him...relationship...communion with Him.

Talking to Him about stuff.

Adam and Eve walked with Him and talked with Him in the cool of the day.

**AGAIN:** It isn’t about a “prayer” but about communion with Him. Connecting with Him. Talking to Him as a man talks to a friend (Exodus 33:11).

So, we have praise, giving and communing with Him that He considers a sweet smelling fragrance. These things give Him pleasure, they get His attention, and they move Him to increase you.

## I want to throw in one more thing:

Ezekiel 6 tells of the judgment that was coming on Israel because of their widespread idolatry.

Ezekiel 6:13 – “Then shall ye know that I am the LORD, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, **the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.**”

**QUESTION:** Are you giving to idols what belongs to God? Praise? Giving? Time?

## Springtime and Flowers

When I think of sweet smelling fragrances...I usually am thinking of something cooking on the stove or in the crock pot. Walking in the house and sniff and it gets your attention. You want more! Yep.

But I noticed, in my studying, that many people go a whole different way.

They think of flowers...yes, I am looking at my wife.

That scent (especially in spring) in the air. It is so strong and potent.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Our lilac bush in our front yard. Can't go to our cars without passing it and, in the spring, sniffing it. Jessica absolutely LOVES it. When it is in bloom...it captures Jessica's attention EVERY TIME she passes it. She may be in a hurry, but **she stops to SMELL THE LILAC!**

I was curious about flowers and about their scent (the sweet smell)...

### **Why was the scent so important to the flower.**

- 1.) It attracts pollinators...which helps the flower reproduce and produce seeds and fruit.
- 2.) It also repels harmful insects.

**NOTE:** Some are attracted to it...that is why you need gardeners.

Well, that gives us a great picture of why we need that sweet smell:

- 1.) Increase.
  - 2.) Keep the enemy away.
- We have a gardener...John 15:1.

But I asked another question...

### **What causes a flower to smell?**

#### **1.) It is who they are...it is in their DNA.**

I know that sounds weird...and overly simple...but flowers smell because they are flowers. It is why they are created. It is them being WHO THEY ARE. **Don't out think it!** Galatians 3:29 tells us that we are in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that we are new creatures...new DNA.

Whatever our MAIN PURPOSE was before being born again, we received a new DNA and a new purpose...to offer sweet smells.

Revelation 4:11 – "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**"

We were created to be a sweet smelling fragrance.

**THEREFORE:** We were created (recreated)...it is our DNA to:

- ~ Praise Him
- ~ Commune with Him
- ~ To give (sow seed).

**NOTE:** All things Adam and Eve did in the garden.

#### **2.) There is an essential oil inside flowers.**

I am not a botanist...but apparent there is an essential oil that resides inside of all flowers (I guess that can be extracted and used) that causes the smell.

Yes, there is an oil in them.

Oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit, in Scripture.

When you are born again, it is a work of the Holy Spirit taking up residence in your life. Or the oil coming in you.

We have that essential oil in us when we are born again...in Christ.

**NOTE:** Nothing is more essential!

**THEREFORE:** That Holy Spirit (oil) in you makes you smell sweet.

So, you cannot be a child of God and...

- ~ Not praise with all you have.
- ~ Not commune with Him...spend time...pray.
- ~ Not give freely.

It is impossible! The oil causes the smell.

**3.) Environment can affect the smell.**

It can affect the potency. It can lessen the smell or increase the smell.

**SPECIFICALLY:** The higher the heat...the stronger the smell.

Even geography (where you are at) can change the smell.

Often, we allow things to change depending on where we are in life.

When things are going good...

~ we praise freely,

~ we give abundantly,

~ we commune consistently.

It's good.

**HOWEVER:** When the heat comes...we have tendency to draw back...to praise less, give less and commune less (or our prayers become selfish and amiss).

**BELOVED:** The sweetest offering you can bring to Him is during the times of heat...when you are not where you want to be.

I have heard this said, "Praising through pain is the sweetest smell. You cannot even duplicate it in eternity."

2 Corinthians 12:9 – "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. ***Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***"

**BELOVED:** When you praise in your infirmities...when you give in your infirmities...when you commune in your infirmities.

***There is nothing that is MORE POTENT in a Christian's life.***

It gets His attention...brings Him pleasure...it draws Him in to increase you and work on you...increase you.

It isn't manipulation...it is from your heart.

## Conclusion

I talked at the beginning of Jessica's love for the lilac tree...those BLOOMING LILACS!

She loves them...they attack me (allergies)!

**ILLUSTRATION:** The commercial with the BIG FLOWERS attacking people in the spring.

**FINAL ESSENTIAL POINT:** What creates a sweet smell to one person will attack another.

John 12:32 – "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

**BELOVED:** Our praise draws us to Him...our giving does the same...our communion is what He loves.

**HOWEVER:** Those same things attack the enemy and put him under our feet.

Psalm 149:7-9 - Praise

David enquired of the Lord...God gave him plans to destroy his enemies.

Malachi 3:10,11 – Tithe and offering...rebuke the devourer.

**UNDERSTAND:** These sweet smells not only pleases God...but destroys the enemy.