

Taking on the Fragrance of Christ

Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. —2 Corinthians 2:15-16 NLT

As we go about our lives, we often take on the odor or “aroma” of the person, place, or thing that we spend time in close contact. My wife has a favorite bread shop that infuses her clothes with the smell of fresh bread. She doesn’t have to tell me where she has been. In the Spirit realm, the same holds true. As we enter into God’s presence and bask in His glory, we take on the “fragrance of Christ.”

Spending time with God is when and where we are transformed into the image of Christ *from glory to glory*. Dwelling in the Secret Place, in His presence, will change you, even your countenance will show it. This happened to Moses and for many people reading this, it’s happened to you. There is an impartation of God’s nature into your spirit when you abide with Him—you are incrementally changed. We are “given” a desire to be like Him, to be holy as He is Holy. People will know if you have been in His presence because the fragrance of Christ is infused in you.

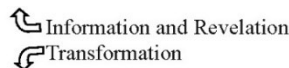
In our daily routine, we are constantly among the saved and the unsaved. The fragrance we have from being with God in His throne room is sweet and pleasing to those who have a desire to please God. Our text tells us that the same aroma of Christ will also bring conviction to, and upon, the unsaved; those who have a heart separated from God. They are allowed to see their “deadness” when confronted with God’s Zoe life wafting as an aroma.

Conviction is merely the moment a person is “convinced” that they are not living their lives the way God intended for them to.

The aroma of Christ in us, sets in motion a work of the Holy Spirit, exposing darkness and allowing the people we know and meet to face his or her state of depravity they otherwise would be blind to. This *is* the work of the Holy Spirit, as we allow ourselves to be salt and light. The unsaved can become very uncomfortable as he or she perceives the fragrance of a person who has been in God’s presence. However, the good news is that *it can also* be the beginning of restoration and redemption for that person, as salt purifies as well as preserves.

Charles Spurgeon says this, “...if you are true and faithful to the Most High, men will resent your unflinching fidelity, since it is a testimony against their iniquities.”

This *is* our calling as believers in Christ; through our close fellowship with God, the fragrance of Christ brings people to a place where they see their need for His redemption and salvation. *This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us*. The point of this message is this: If we choose to linger in God’s presence, and have the fragrance of Christ, we will not need to point out sin in others. Here’s my challenge: begin to take on the aroma of Christ in your life. Put aside the things in your life that would keep you from spending time with your Creator. The result will have a positive effect on your eternity and the eternity of those around you. Let’s begin to add to our knowledge “about God” and begin to know God deeply and personally.—Ω



Heavenly Father, thank You for providing a way to enter into Your presence—to know You as Moses and King David knew You. Thank You that through Jesus I can come boldly into Your presence as a well-loved child. I want to linger there with You and take on the fragrance of Christ. I want to be a life-giving perfume to the body of Christ and those who are seeking You to please You. LORD, I ask for Your amazing grace evident in me to minister to those who are perishing, and whom perceive the fragrance of Christ as a dreadful smell of death and doom. I ask to be an instrument in Your hands to bring Your message of Salvation to every person You bring into my life. I ask this in Jesus’ name, Your precious Son, the redeemer of mankind. Amen.