

Spiritual How-to's
How to please the Lord
Be a Sweet Smell
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Intro. I want to begin with 2 true stories.

1. Teaching a smelly Jr. Higher
2. "I smelled that you were here" – a work story

I. An aroma that is pleasing to the Lord.

Science tells us that each human has their own distinct odor, and the Bible tells us (over 150 times) that there is an offering that is a "sweet smell", "fragrant offering", or "pleasing aroma" to the Lord.

A. This offering is the burnt offering and is taught in both the OT & NT. In the OT –

1. It is first mentioned when **Noah** offered this offering to the Lord & "It was a pleasing aroma to the Lord." Gen. 8:21
2. Exodus, Leviticus & Numbers teach about when it's used, how, & why
3. There is a **burnt offering** (as one of the 5 offerings) and there is a **burnt sacrifice** (as one of 4 different sacrifices)
4. These involved willingly bringing an animal, killing it and allowing it's blood to atone for sin, or express thankfulness &/or devotion
 - a. it was fully consumed by fire
 - b. nothing was leftover (except the hide), for any other use
5. These burnt offerings & sacrifices were always said to be "a pleasing aroma to the Lord."

B. In the NT we find these OT sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, who was killed and by whose blood our sin is atoned for. Eph. 5:2; Phil. 4:17-18

1. Jesus became a burnt offering, wholly consumed and offered to God. He fulfilled that offering.
2. Jesus offered himself, a fragrant offering & sacrifice.
3. God received Jesus offering and sacrifice as a pleasing aroma

II. So, what does all that have to do with me pleasing the Lord, you may be asking.

A. YOU TOO, are meant to be a burnt offering, sacrifice to the Lord.

B. You too, can be a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

1. Go back to my opening stories and consider
2. Would your life's smell to the Lord, be that of the junior higher or of the perfumed co-worker?

C. 2 Cor. 2:14 – says this, “Thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus, leads us in triumphal procession AND THROUGH US SPREADS THE FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM EVERYWHERE.” ESV

TPT puts it this way – “through our yielded lives he spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go. We have become the unmistakable aroma of the victory of the Anointed One – a perfume of life...”

1. So we are the perfumed ones, smelling up everywhere we go with the fragrance of Jesus and His victory
2. Or at least that is the way it is s’pose to go

D. Rom. 12:1 tells us tho’, that we must first, “Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.”

1. This makes US that burnt sacrifice, offered wholly to God, to be completely consumed by Him, nothing left.
2. This fragrance from our burning for Him, is a sweet smell to the Lord
3. A pleasing aroma!

III. What does that look like in real life?

Applying the instructions about the burnt offerings from the OT to us, we can glean these applications:

- A. We offer our lives each morning and evening, willingly to Him
- B. Through personal confession, we seek to be blameless (forgiven of all of our sin)
- C. We intentionally apply the blood of Jesus to every area of our life
 1. We believe and pray into each promise He’s given
 2. We walk in faith to see each one active in our life
- D. We are a whole offering, keeping nothing back or off limits for Him to consume
- E. Our burning sacrifice may include the sacrifice of time, sleep, immediate satisfaction, social life, fun, financial security or relationships
- F. The burnt offering is the oldest and most common offering in history – is it in your life? DO you burn for Him each day, fully consumed?

IV. In closing, I ask you, then -

What is your distinct odor before the Lord?

What do others smell about Jesus when you are near?

Does the Lord receive a sweet smell from your life and your sacrifice?

Are you a pleasing aroma to Him?

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