

Monthly Devotion

AUGUST

“Pleasing is the fragrance of your
perfumes; your name is like perfume
poured out”

Song of Songs 1:3



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If you've ever had the opportunity to stay at Shallowford House, I am sure you will have walked around the grounds. At this time of year, the flowers are at their peak, many now past their best with the fruits of Autumn in evidence and becoming heavy on the trees.

The cool of the early evening is a good time to wander and enjoy the heady fragrances of the plants that are around. Some of the wildflowers and leaves are particularly pungent and their fragrance memorable.

Other fragrances include the various lavender bushes growing around the garden. The combination of all these is indeed heady. The fragrance of flowers alerts us to their presence, sometimes though unseen we become aware that they are there because we can smell their beauty.

In a similar way, we may not see God or tangibly touch Him, yet at times we become very aware of His presence. God is always there but sometimes we may forget that, however, rather like the heady scent of unseen flowers, His presence infuses our lives.

In his 1983 worship song Graham Kendrick wrote these lyrics based on Song of Songs 1:3.

"May the fragrance of Jesus fill this place.
Lovely fragrance of Jesus,
Rising from the sacrifice
Of lives laid down in adoration"

We can only imagine the fragrance of incense referred to in the Song of Songs, as they were offered to the Lord in the Temple and filled the place with their sweetness.



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The fragrance of God reminds us that though God may be hidden, He is near filling our beings with His holiness, rising around us and offering us the fragrance of His presence.

Wherever you are this August, may you be very aware of the 'Fragrance of the Lord' surrounding you, uplifting you, and giving you peace.

To Pray

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,
That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.
Shine through me, and be so in me
That every soul I come in contact with
May feel Your presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,
So to shine as to be a light to others;
The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine;
It will be you, shining on others through me.
Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.
Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example,
By the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do,
The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.

Amen

Our monthly devotion is written by Susan Hutchinson for shallowfordhouse.org

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