

WE ARE THE SWEET FRAGRANCE OF MESSIAH YAHSHUA

The fragrance of jasmine vine flower is most delightful. It covers the garden with pleasant smell, attracting honey bees, bumble bees and other flying creatures to its smell. As a vine, it takes over spreading its branches far, reaching its world with incredible fragrance. It contains about 200 species; it is used by the global industry to make perfume. The rose bush in its different species and colors, is also known for its beauty and fragrance. The world is covered with flowers of all kinds, expressing beauty and pleasant fragrances. A gift our God gave us when He created the world. Some flowers have beauty, but not fragrance, or just a little. Any way, they serve to beautify the world and to bring joy to those who admire and appreciate a garden. The evergreen trees, for example, are just that, with a distinct, but not loud smell. However, they stay alive during the harshness of winter. Life continues feeding them, while snow falls on them and even ice. The strength they display is seen in every winter, while other trees around them fade and temporarily lose their leaves, in a picture of seemly dead, until the sun shines and the warmth of spring penetrates their branches. Some sparkle with beautiful flowers, specifically, cherry blossoms. Life with variety of colors fills the forests, blending with the evergreen trees, complementing them. Life, in its time and space, speaks loudly and clearly the wisdom of the Creator, Who holds it in His control.

Before God created man, he created all that pertained to his emotional and physical needs. He created the most beautiful and perfect garden for him to tend and care for. The fragrances that the garden expressed, brought a sense of comfort and calmness to Adam and Eve and to all created things. It also sustained them. Men and nature enjoyed harmony together, while God walked in the garden in the cool of the day, pleased with what He had created. He smiled, saying: "It is good." We wonder, how could something so beautiful be destroyed in a split second? How could anybody want to change that beautiful environment of peace and joy? An environment that transcended men's relationship with God the Creator? As it was, at the decision of Eve, this beautiful and perfect garden became a garden of weeds; it had lost its beauty, its fragrance and its shine, for the dark clouds of sin overtook it. At the disobedience of Adam and Eve, not only they suffered the consequences, but also the entire world of God's creation with them. In the letter to the Romans, we read *that creation waits expectantly and longs earnestly for God's sons to be revealed; for it was subjected to frailty, not because of some intentional fault on its part, but by the will of Him Who so subjected it; that nature itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children; we know that the whole creation has been moaning together in the pains of labor until now, and not only creation, but we ourselves too, who have and enjoy the firstfruits of the [Holy] Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for the redemption of our bodies, our adoption* (Rom. 8:19-23).

The believer is the Lord's Garden, from where pleasant fragrance flows through his obedience to the Lord. However, when we neglect our spiritual garden, allowing sin to control us, it is like a natural and unattended garden where weeds of all kinds take over. The beautiful garden that

once was, calling the attention of all who passed by, is now a garden of weeds, with no beauty to show forth, neither a fragrance to share; only regrets by all who passes through. A life short of love for others; empty of YAHSHUA'S love. Like a reservoir, his life does not reciprocate the love given him, for love is like jasmine flowers, spreading its fragrance to all. The more that we share, the more that we will have to give, as we receive in return. Love is two-way street; it is the fragrance God is expecting from us, while He blesses us with good things. *Oh, I pray that the [cold] north wind and the [soft] south wind may blow upon my garden, that its spices may flow out [in abundance for you in whom my soul delights]. Let my beloved come into his garden and eat its choicest fruits (S.S. 4:16).*

We are to God the sweet aroma of Christ (II Cor.2:15). For He has imparted His righteousness to us when we believed in Him. His righteousness is active in us when we apply it in our daily living. It interprets the holiness of God been available by the Holy Spirit through His work of sanctification. We must live to please Him, not ourselves. Our cross we must bear, always looking ahead to YAHSHUA, the Author and Consummator of our faith (Heb. 12:1); leaving all behind, we must press on to the prize waiting for us. *For if we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny and disown and reject Him, He will also deny and disown and reject us (II Tim.2:11b-12). Paul said, I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ YAHSHUA is calling us upward (Phil. 3:13-14).* Our Lord will never reject the fragrance that flows from us to Him. As a matter of fact, the Bible says, "Then those who feared the Lord talked often one to another; and the Lord listened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who revered and worshipfully feared the Lord and who thought on His name, and they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be my jewels. And I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him. Then shall you return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve Him" (Mal. 3:16-18).

Behold, the Lord's eye is upon those who fear Him, who wait for Him and hope in His mercy and loving-kindness (Ps. 33:18). Our way is not hidden from the Lord. The acts of obedience to Him, He accepts as a sweet aroma and in due time, He will recompense all those who fear Him. Whatever we do, whatever we say, must be to bring glory to His name. Let not the good things we do point out to our doings, but let it rise as a fragrance to Him. We are not of ourselves; for we have been purchased with His precious blood. Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 12:1-2 says: *I appeal, to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service and spiritual worship; do not be conformed to this work,, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

In conclusion, being “the sweet aroma of Christ” illustrates the transformative power flowed to the believer; it emanates the presence of the Lord by our conduct toward others; Paul said, Walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God (Eph. 5:2). Followers of YAHSHUA are bearers of spiritual fragrances, as we share our life to the needy and to the lost world.

Here is a poem from my heart to yours, in order for you to ponder on your life as the Lord’s Garden:

My Garden of Weeds

I planted a garden
So, I thought to be
A garden of flowers.
Day after day, I watched
It grow into a garden
So, I thought
A garden of flowers.
Weeks of rain and sunshine
My garden I thought to be
A garden of flowers
Became a garden of weeds,
Everywhere a weed
Taking away the breath
From my flowers!
Oh! Eve, I exclaimed
your first weed
Planted in God’s
Perfect garden
Has spread to my garden,
The garden I thought
To be a garden of flowers.
Uprooting the weeds
From my garden
One day, I heard
My Lord saying, child,
Your life is like a garden
Created to be a perfect
Garden in My sight
But the seed of a weed
Entered your soul.
No longer a perfect garden,
Your life became
A garden of weeds.

Like briars and thistles,
Sin pierced your soul.
You cried to Me,
I came and took away
Your thorns and wore
Them as My crown,
And made you
A garden of flowers,
Sanctified to be My bride.
I betrothed you
With My eternal love
And with a ring
I marked you to be Mine
Until I fly you home
Where you will be
My perfect Garden!

THINK ABOUT IT!