SONG OF SONGS: THE FRAGRANCE OF JESUS IS BETTER

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Songs. 1:3

" your anointing oils are fragrant; your name is oil poured out; therefore virgins love you.'

I. THE EXQUISITE FRAGRANCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. The pleasant thing about a perfume is its exquisite smell that delights us and thus compares the name of the Shulamite, that is, the character that she has known of her beloved and how it has moved her. God's name is like a good perfume. Its mystery, beauty and wonder impact us powerfully.
- B. It is understandable that in the book of Songs perfume is used as an analogy of the knowledge of God due to the impact it causes us. Paul used the same perfume analogy to describe the knowledge of Jesus.

2 Co. 2:14 " But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us <u>spreads</u> the <u>fragrance</u> of the knowledge of him everywhere."

- C. When the Bride of Christ (the church) experiences the knowledge of God, she is deeply touched. There are three significant things that have occurred and will still occur throughout history regarding the knowledge of Jesus:
 - 1. **The entire earth is full of the glory or beauty of Jesus** but revelation is needed to see the perfume or glory of God which is manifested in the natural and also in the spiritual.

Is. 6:3 "And one called to another [Seraphim] and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

a) David lived with such a spirit of revelation that he saw the beauty of God even when he looked at the heavens.

Psal. 19:1-4 "<u>The heavens declare the glory of God</u>...² Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge...⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world"

2. God will exalt and reveal the renown and loveliness of Christ in all nations to the point where He will become the most supreme and glorious reality on all the earth. God will exalt the name of Jesus to the utmost by filling the whole earth with His knowledge.

Hab. 2:14 "For the <u>earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of</u> the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Phil. 2:9-10 "Therefore <u>God has highly exalted him</u> and <u>bestowed on</u> <u>him the name</u> that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"

3. God will pour out the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus, drawing the church's attention to His qualities and His personality. The Father will fill all His people (Jews and Gentiles) with the knowledge of Jesus which will lead us to love Him more and more.

Is. 4:2 "In that day [the end times] the branch of the Lord [Jesus] shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel."

Eph. 4:11-13 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets... ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."

II. WE LOVE JESUS MORE AS THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS SPILLED INTO OUR HEART

- A. **Song 1:3b** *"therefore virgins love you"* The bride is saying *"Because You Yourself are like a fragrant balm that has been poured out, my heart flutters. The fragrance of Your qualities causes everyone to love You."*
- B. The beloved understands how God has transformed the hearts of human beings throughout history. There is only one "name that is like a spilled fragrance" that effectively transforms us and can change even the most wounded and spiritually dull person into an extravagant lover of God.
- C. The Bride knows that the beauty of Jesus will cause all believers (the maidens) to love Jesus. The entire Church will eventually become extravagant lovers of Jesus to eternity.

Psal. 66:4 "<u>Everything on earth will worship you</u>; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs." (NLT).

D. Those who experience this love will do anything to continue to know more about that Name. That is why Paul joyfully suffered losses and endured difficulties.

Phil. 3:7-8 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of <u>knowing Christ</u> Jesus my Lord. For his [Christ] sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."

- **E.** Our zeal for Jesus is strengthened by receiving the knowledge of God. There is nothing more powerful or more satisfying than God showing Himself to the spirit of man. To understand Jesus more is to love him and enjoy him more.
- F. Jesus declares the name (personality) of the Father to awaken our hearts to love God.

Jn. 17:26 "<u>I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it</u> known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

G. We will love Jesus with the love with which the Father loves Him. Loving

Jesus in the overflow of the Father's affection for Jesus is our inheritance and our destiny. There is nothing more glorious than loving God through the power of God. The Bride will love Jesus just as the Father loves Jesus.

H. Jesus "the psychologist par excellence" allowed us to know how the human heart works when he explained to Simon (the leper) how when people experience more forgiveness, it is when more love flows from them.

Lk. 7:47 "Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, <u>are forgiven—for</u> <u>she loved much.</u> But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

- I. Satan deceives people by convincing them that God is cruel, unjust, or insensitive; It tells them that God rejects them, causing them to flee from God instead of running to Him when they fail.
- J. The Christian life consists of being loved and enjoyed by God and then responding to that love with total devotion and obedience. This is far more inspiring than any other pleasure, position, or possession.
- K. The Bride understands the impact of encountering God's emotions which is contrary to our pride and religious formalism. It makes us grow in gratitude instead of pride and renews our love, so that the path of our spiritual life is not something tedious and mechanical.
- L. **Revealing God's desires strengthens us to be able to desire God**. If you want to love God more, then fill your mind with truths related to His love (emotions) for you.

Is. 26:9 "My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you..."

III. THE SWEET PERFUME OF THE PERSONALITY OF GOD: 5 VERBS

A. Jesus emphasized the sweet perfume of the Father's emotions and personality (**Lk. 15:20**). This is one of the most complete and concise statements about the emotional character of God in Scripture. We rest in the God who sees, feels, runs, hugs and kisses our hearts.

Lc. 15:20 "his father <u>saw</u> him and <u>felt compassion</u>, and <u>ran</u> and <u>embraced</u> <u>him</u> and <u>kissed him</u>."

- The father <u>saw</u> the prodigal son: God sees each of us individually (Zech. 4:10).
- 2. The father *felt compassion* for the prodigal son: Such is God's tenderness for each of us (**Ps. 103:13**).
- The father <u>ran</u> to the prodigal son: It shows God's initiative for His own (Lk. 15:4).
- 4. The father <u>threw himself</u> on the prodigal son (embraced him): It shows the loving and expressive affection of God for his people (**Jer. 31:3**).
- 5. The father *kissed* the prodigal son: This shows the acceptance and

intimacy that the Father wants with His children.

IV. APPLYING THIS TO OUR LIVES

- 1. **First, we must learn these truths, but that is only the starting point.** No one would go to a famous restaurant to simply study the menu. It is not enough to be a connoisseur of the Song of Songs, we must allow what God expresses in this book to really touch our hearts.
- 2. **Second, we must tell it to God** because when we do this it becomes a revelation to our hearts. We must commit ourselves to a sustained and loving meditation with this book; we must give ourselves in a permanent and passionate dialogue of prayer with Jesus. The language of Songs must get into our prayer life and our thoughts before it transforms our emotions.
- 3. We can have about 10 phrases that become deeply personal to each of us. We can write them on cards to use when we are driving or going for a walk. Say them to Jesus understanding what we say. For example, *"Father, may Jesus kiss me with His Word"* or *"Spirit, support me, refresh me"* (**Song 1:2; 2:5**). Declare that the fragrance of His good perfumes (the personality of God) makes you love Him.
- 4. Take time to journal and write down your thoughts, prayers, and meditations as you "read-pray" **Song of Songs**. This will help you capture the truths that the Lord is putting in your heart.

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. According to this teaching, explain how you can grow in love for Jesus.
- 2. Do you feel that there is any hindrance that prevents you from growing in love for Jesus? Explain.
- 3. Which of the 5 verbs of the personality of God have you experienced? Explain your experience.