



Living in "Sweet Acceptance"

Leviticus 1:99 (NKJV) "... And the priest shall burn all [the pieces of the bull] on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord."

Words of Ministry

One thing that helps wake me up in the morning is the pleasant aroma of breakfast! I love the smell of eggs and bacon. It is a definite "wake-me-upper".

Did you know that God also want to "wake you up" with the "aroma" of your true nature now found in union with Christ? That is one of the primary lessons of the "burnt offering". God wants to wake us up to the true nature of our acceptance and completeness before Him.

In the Old Testament, every worshiper's acceptance before the Lord depended upon the offering presented. The offering **represented** the worshiper. This was the meaning of the burnt offering. The offering was presented before God and was called a "sweet smelling aroma" before God. It was not the physical "smell" of the offering alone that was "sweet", but what the spiritual "aroma" of that offering meant to God and the worshiper. The offering was without blemish, perfect and completely devoted to God. And when this offering was presented by a worshiper, the worshiper was received by God in the sweet acceptance of the offering. The condition of the offering became the condition of the worshiper.

When Jesus went to the cross, He did more than just die for your sins. By His one sacrifice, not only did He remove your sins, but He also presented you to God in the sweet smelling acceptance of His righteousness and perfections. Jesus became the true fulfillment of the "burnt offering". As in the Old Testament, the perfection of the offering of

Christ comes upon us, and we enter into His sweet acceptance! Every perfect attribute of Jesus, your "burnt offering" comes on you permanently when you take Him as your Savior. And because God sees you clothed with Christ, you have the same acceptance, standing and favor with God that Christ has! When Jesus was "offered" on the cross, the fire of God's justice brought out His perfections like perfume to God. In that one offering, Jesus' obedience and perfections rose like "a sweet aroma to the Lord", which is what is emitted when the offering is burnt. This "sweet aroma" speaks of a fullness of rest to God's heart. Jesus' perfect sacrifice gave God so much satisfaction that He rested in the completeness of it.

Beloved, today you too can rest in the perfect offering of Jesus, knowing that what He did, He did for you — *"Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma"* (Ephesians 5:2). You can rest knowing that God the Father is completely satisfied with you because His Son's sacrifice has caused His heart to rest with regard to you. You can rest in a complete acceptance before the throne of God, because Jesus is God's satisfaction for you. Now, as you come before God, you can say, *"Father, I thank You that Jesus is a great delight and joy to You. He satisfies Your heart completely. And what He did in offering Himself, He did for my acceptance. Because Jesus so satisfies You, I know that You are satisfied with me. Because Jesus is Your delight, I am also Your delight. Because Jesus is a sweet aroma to You, I know I too am a sweet aroma to You... And because Jesus is my righteousness and perfection, I stand righteous and perfect before You."* Beloved, when you speak of Christ and His finished work in this way, it goes up to God as a sweet-smelling aroma of rest to God's heart. And if God can rest in the perfect sacrifice of His Son, you can too!

Beloved, it is time for us to "wake up" by the sweet aroma of Christ as our burnt offering. It is time to live in the "sweet acceptance" of Christ in us before the throne of God. We have to learn to eliminate all and every thought contrary to the fact that the Father's complete satisfaction and favour is upon us now. Know that there is a "sweet aroma" over your life in God's eyes. God is attracted to you, pleased with you and fully satisfied with you in Christ! Live a life in the sweet smelling aroma of your acceptance in Christ.

Go ahead and say it: "I smell good!"