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SWEET COMMUNION

“As the deer pants and longs for the water brooks, so I pant and long for You, O God. My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?” PS 42:1 AMP

David is a gifted artist. He captured the very essence of longing after God through poetic illustrations. His perceptual understanding conjures up vivid images. If a deer searches for the ‘scent’ of water, then we likewise can follow a trail to locate God in our wilderness places.

The deer longs for something beyond his reach, just as we yearn for something unattainable in our present circumstances. Yet something within our soul desperately seeks to drink at the well of salvation and like the deer nothing restrains us from our quest. Our eyes may see dim shadows, but our heart and soul searches for a scent that would lead us to Him. We relentlessly hunt for any sign or indication that He is near—that we may soon behold His Face and know His purpose in our time of need.

A scent is a distinctive aroma. We’re familiar with the excellent scent of animals. They trace scents—dogs get a whiff of someone’s garment and then track them down. They literally smell our DNA that’s still lingering in the air from when we walked by ... and so unique is our scent that rescue dogs smell it once and know it as ours.

How often do we reminisce about something? Reminiscent is the scent or scene of an event reminding us of another time and place where something similar or comparable happened. We caught a whiff of a memory and like a deer, we hunt for the recollection of it from our past encounters ... we remember a divine scent and thirst for more.

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved.” 2 COR 2:15

God releases through us a particular scent of the divine that's also traceable. The Apostle Paul refers to this as a trail of triumph in Christ. No longer does man question 'when' he can behold God—rather the scent of Christ permeates the earth through him and the extraordinary happens.

David found God and kept Him close, even in His heart. We likewise follow a pilgrimage until we discover He already dwells in our hearts. The progression God-ward left a trail for our conscious mind to come back to Him. We find Him in the scent of prayer. Our knowledge of God—our communion and intimate relationship with Him dissipates in an aroma that's dispersed abroad.

The communion or coming together is very personal. Abigail Adams once alluded to the intimate reunion with her husband (after a four year separation) with, "poets and artists wisely draw a veil over those scenes that surpass the pen of one and the pencil of the other."

This may be why there's a veil before entering into the Holiest Place—it's so intimate a union that it would be unlawful to even accidentally gaze upon. The coming together in Him far exceeds the limits of earthly experience—it's a sweet communion of euphoric pleasure wrapped in overwhelming delight! David wrote, "*As for me ... I shall be fully satisfied, when I awake [to find myself] beholding Your form [and having sweet communion with You].*"

"*Diffusing the fragrance of His knowledge in every place*" may be likened to the spiritual infusion—the excessive vibrational energy. Sometimes it's like a force that comes into us and then is released from us—as though we become a transmitter of divine power. In the process of abiding in Him we become a reservoir of the Spirit and through us the miraculous happens "*because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*"

These are moments when His love intensifies. Usually this is experienced as a sudden forceful vibration that feels like an overwhelming charge or essence of divine love radiating from our heart towards some tragedy, need or situation and once reaching its targeted objective stops of its own accord. This can't be generated by our own power—we can't make it happen. It's divine intervention in the form of spiritual energy that's initiated and then is terminated by the Almighty Source for a specific miraculous work.

God's always in us and His fragrance continuously emanates from us, but the difference is that for one brief moment God mightily infuses us with an overload of power that we in turn release into the earth. It's supernatural power that permeates of His will and purpose in profound ways. Each encounter is a divine happening.

In these moments we're quite certain that the supernatural is in operation and aware of the overpowering Presence of God to accomplish it. It's no effort on our part other than the personal witness that an infusion of His Love went through us to another. Oftentimes

there's a spiritual manifestation during the infusion of His love—like a power surge that turns the light on.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” JN 17:7-8

We decide how much of God we want. He's in us by measure but if we abide in Him it's beyond measure. We can be delighted with the scent of Him or we can move on into the Source. It's our decision to settle for a portion of God or enter into the eternal realm of His 'all.'

Entering His Presence can be a literal transformation. I sang a song and stepped into the word “all” by summoning up all that was in me—truly meaning what I said seemed to transfer me into His Presence. That small gesture of surrender connected me to the supernatural realm in a profound way. I broke through all earthly limitations and entered into the infiniteness of God. It actually felt like “the room had no ceiling or floor!” He's in me, but at that moment I knew I was in Him!

God is complete, unlimited and universal power ... He's the ALL-knowing, ALL-present, ALL-powerful—Almighty God! When I placed myself in 'all' of Him, I entered His Presence; the NOW of God! It sounds incredible yet the truth is that when I stretched as far as possible with my heart ... mustering up all that I had this side of heaven ... God made up the astounding difference and I was propelled further into an unlimited vastness of God—an eternal space that was immeasurable!

This simple heartfelt prayer of 'all' opened a passageway to the throne room of Almighty God! Many connect with God in their intimate relationship so this isn't a new or rare experience. But the fact it's a portal easily accessed by consciously putting our whole heart (literally our all into His 'all') makes it a significant scent to track down again... and again.

Discovering 'all' moments is actually unveiling access points into more of Him—our communion with Him. Reminiscing the fragrance of His love in 'all' moments, my mind catches the scent of another time and different encounter: I felt an essence that I knew intimately to be the Lord Jesus. Others saw Him standing before me and His angels behind me, but I was blinded by an intense light so bright I couldn't even open my eyes!

I felt God as Love before me. Taking a step forward, I breathed in as much of His Love that I could possibly contain. It was the overwhelming Presence of God Almighty! At that moment my 'knower' knew His Love—I knew that God was able to always keep me! It was revolutionary!

God's love is spectacular, beyond anything I had ever experienced—I sensed absolutely fearlessness! I felt totally convinced Stephen was impacted by God's love

while being stoned and that's why he could plead for their forgiveness. He welcomed death because it meant the complete convergence of his spirit into God's!

The discovery of perfect love profoundly affected me. I wanted to linger in the radiance of His love forever! I knew I could do all things if I remained in the strength of His perfect love! ... and even now if I am afraid I run to this passageway—His love always awaits me with open arms! God's love brings a total abandonment of fear!

“By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world” 1 JN 4:13

Again my mind traced His scent and wandered back along an aromatic trail to my first communion ... the Baptism of His Spirit. Chances are your thoughts already found a similar trail to your first encounter of His indescribable Presence.

Maybe you too tried to 'get' the Holy Spirit—I tried desperately for a week. Each time I felt His love I would get caught up with the thought, “He's here!” I concentrated more on the new experience of actually feeling His Presence than on pressing on to being totally immersed in Him. It's similar to falling off to sleep: we sense entering a vast cloud or expanse of sleep but instead of yielding, our minds wants to analyze what we're feeling—and our thinking keeps us awake!

I didn't know He was already in me, that I was seeking after what I already had. But I was determined that I'd have the Holy Spirit by Sunday morning ... yet at 11:30 Saturday evening I was still trying. Because of the lateness of the hour I finally stopped 'trying' and chose to bless Jesus instead. I wanted to lift back up to Him the measure of love He poured on me. With all that was in me I tried to enter into the divine space I felt around me and in me ... lifting love back up to God with all my heart ... I entered an awesome doorway and beheld the Face of God!

Jesus was a formidable Presence standing in my bedroom that night ... yet He spoke to me in an exceptionally gentle manner ... actually extending His arms to me. He told me not to be afraid but to come and learn of Him; He would never leave me alone, He would always take care of me and that I should never be afraid. Somewhere in this I began magnifying God in another language! It was an amazing experience that you all can relate to with similar testimonies that exhilarate you as much as I feel writing mine.

In this holy space I exerted no energy and yet I was infused with a supernatural power that changed my heart, mind, spirit and purpose forever! I was swept along like a petal on a summer breeze. I wasn't fighting against anything—I was tenderly transported to His Presence and it was extraordinary!

It was an approach gained through means of meditation. I emptied my mind of every thought of 'trying to get something' and concentrated on just one thing—loving Jesus.

All physical consciousness left me ... I was not mindful of my surroundings or any lapse of time but became keenly aware of an intense bliss ensuing me.

“This hope we have as an anchor of our soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” HB 6:19-20

In that holy space of feeling His awesome love upon me and emanating that love back towards Him, I literally penetrated behind the veil like the scent of incense in the Tabernacle. I entered between the fibers—words and thoughts had no hold on me and I became ‘hooked on a feeling’ ... and drifted on the transparent profusion of His love so sweet and immeasurable that I bypassed all physical restrictions ... and crossed the threshold to His bosom ... on a whisper of a prayer ... and the scent of His Love.

It was beyond anything that I had ever experienced before! Had I thought about what I was experiencing I would certainly have analyzed the ‘trip’ but I was determined to bless God and attached my heart to ‘feeling’ after Him ... and in the abandonment of my thoughts came the unspeakable Presence of His.

Although our testimonies of His love are as unique as the moments of time, the inexpressible beauty of His love is not lost to any of us. *“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”*

Sometimes when we’re gathered with the believers we sense the ineffable feeling of ‘coming home.’ It seems to permeate the air and we sense we’re home again because we’ve been there already with Him numerous times.

It’s always pleasant to reminisce of heavenly places—we look forward to hearing of your recollections ... *“that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.”*

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