

Scent of the Rose

by Charles E. Cowman

The sermon emphasizes the importance of dwelling with God and allowing Him to fill us with His presence, resulting in the sweet odors of a broken spirit and a contrite heart.

Topics: "The Cross", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

Charles E. Cowman preaches about the significance of the spices mentioned in Song of Solomon 4:16, drawing parallels between the bitter-sweetness of life's experiences, the death to self-will and sin, and the fragrance that comes from affliction. He emphasizes the beauty that emanates from Christians who have embraced the cross, displaying a broken spirit and a contrite heart, akin to the ripened fruit touched by frost. Cowman urges believers to release the sweet odors of their hearts, like the fragrances of a lump of clay dwelling with the rose, symbolizing the transformative power of dwelling with the Lord.

Transcript

"Blow upon my garden that the spices may flow out" (S. of Sol. 4:16).

Some of the spices mentioned in this chapter are quite suggestive. The aloe was a bitter spice, and it tells of the sweetness of bitter things, the bitter-sweet, which has its own fine application that only those can understand who have felt it. The myrrh was used to embalm the dead, and it tells of death to something. It is the sweetness which comes to the heart after it has died to its self-will and pride and sin.

Oh, the inexpressible charm that hovers about some Christians simply because they bear upon the chastened countenance and mellow spirit the impress of the cross, the holy evidence of having died to something that was once proud and strong, but is now forever at the feet of Jesus. It is the heavenly charm of a broken spirit and a contrite heart, the music that springs from the minor key, the sweetness that comes from the touch of the frost upon the ripened fruit.

And then the frankincense was a fragrance that came from the touch of the fire. It was the burning powder that rose in clouds of sweetness from the bosom of the flames. It tells of

the heart whose sweetness has been called forth, perhaps by the flames of affliction, until the holy place of the soul is filled with clouds of praise and prayer. Beloved, are we giving out the spices, the perfumes, the sweet odors of the heart? --The Love-Life of Our Lord.

"A Persian fable says: One day

A wanderer found a lump of clay
So redolent of sweet perfume
Its odors scented all the room.
'What are thou? was his quick demand,
'Art thou some gem from Samarcand,
Or spikenard in this rude disguise,
Or other costly merchandise?'
'Nay: I am but a lump of clay.'
"Then whence this wondrous perfume--say!"
'Friend, if the secret I disclose,
I have been dwelling with the rose.'
Sweet parable! and will not those
'Who love to dwell with Sharon's rose,
Distil sweet odors all around,
Though low and mean themselves are found?
Dear Lord, abide with us that we
May draw our perfume fresh from Thee."

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