

"THE SWEET SMELL OF VICTORY"

(2 Corinthians 2:14-17)

We can be thankful to God when we have negative encounters with people as we obey the Lord.

I. Areas that God is responsible for:

A. God is responsible to always lead us into triumph.

*But **thanks be to God**, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. (v.14)*

1. When God leads us to do something that feel like failure, how is this being led into triumph?"
2. **(v.14)** The fact that we were led, that we followed, that we obeyed God, THAT is victory.

B. God is responsible to see us as a fragrant aroma (not as failures).

2 Corinthians 2:15–16 — ¹⁵ *For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?"*

1. "**fragrance**" mean a pleasing aroma.
 - a. Other parts of the Bible tell us that this a sacrificial aroma: **(Eph. 5:1) (Philp 4:18)**
2. **ILLUSTRATION:** Beauty of Fragrance.
3. When we are sharing God's word in hardships and problems having questionable results, at that point we smell most like His Son.

C. God takes responsibility for producing the results (not us).

And who is adequate for these things? (v.16b)

1. God is adequate, qualified and able. God is responsible to the produce.
2. What does this mean for us? How should this affect our attitude.
3. **APPLICATION:** Don't carry the burden or quilt or feeling of failure, because YOU did not see the results you expected in a ministry experience. Be relieved, be thankful.
4. **EXAMPLES being led by God:**
 - a. Sharing how God ministered to us in a Bible study.
 - b. Sharing with a Jehovah's Witness the true gospel.
 - c. God is responsible for producing results! Be thankful not regretful.

II. What is OUR responsibility in sharing the word of God?

2 Corinthians 2:17 — ¹⁷ *For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God."*

A. We are not to manipulate the word of God.

1. "**the many**"- The false apostles who did it for money, for power admiration, and Jealousy.
2. "**peddling**" - idea of corrupting, or watering down.

B. We need to examine ourselves in four areas before we speak for God.

1. **Motive-** Speak the word of God with sincerity.
2. **Message-** Speak the word of God as one sent from God.
3. **Moral Standing-** Speak the word of God in the power of Christ-Likeness.
4. **Method-** Speak knowing that God is watching.

THINK, PRAY, AND OBEY:

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