

# Release the Scent of Heaven

*“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15).*

The fear of the Lord is to be enjoyed like a scented candle! I am making a confession. I like scented candles! Specifically any candle that smells like pine trees, since it reminds me of where I grew up in upstate NY.

As children we all learned to never play with fire. It is important children know how to have a healthy respect for fire. Yet, as they mature, children must also learn how useful fire can be. Fire can be dangerous, but it is also a great, fascinating blessing. If we only live in fear of fire, we would never enjoy its benefits.

Isaiah 11:3, which is a Messianic prophesy about Jesus, says: “and He (Jesus) will delight in the fear of the Lord.” The word used for “fear” in the Hebrew is “*yirah*”. It means a “*sweet savor*” or “*scent*”.

When Jesus the Messiah came He taught us how to delight in the fragrance of the fear of the Lord. Without fire, a scented candle cannot burn to release its fragrance for us to enjoy. Since Jesus was not born into sin and He was not bound by death, His understanding of the fear of God was more enjoyable than ours.

We fear God because He is Holy and we were born unholy, bound by sin and death. Sin corrupted our ability to learn how to enjoy God and His presence. This is why Jesus gave His life for us on the cross. He became the sacrifice for our sin, so that through Christ we can have a healthy fear of God and enjoy the fragrance of His presence.

As an adult, I am not afraid of fire like I was as a child. I now see fire as a huge blessing and benefit to my daily life. I no longer live afraid of God since Jesus has set me free! Now, I can enjoy the fragrance of His presence forever. I still fear the Lord but with a proper perspective of how to enjoy Him.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:15, 'For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.' God not only gave Jesus to us to forgive us of our sin, but to live with us

forever! Jesus enables us to live holy lives which can release the scent of heaven! Many people have an unhealthy fear of God. That is not why He created us. God desires for us to enjoy Him in the midst of have a healthy perspective of who He really is!

Colossians 2:9-10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

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