THE ODOUR OF THE CHURCH

A call to repentance and intercession for the Church



Odour /ˈəʊdə/

Noun: A distinctive smell, especially an unpleasant one.

Several scriptures reveal **God**'s love for sweet-smelling fragrances and aromas. Throughout the Bible, pleasing aromas have even influenced **God**'s decisions and caused Him to change His mind in various circumstances.

*And when the **Lord** smelled the pleasing aroma, the **Lord** said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done."*
Genesis 8:21 (ESV)

From Genesis to the book of Revelation, Abba has never been reserved about His love for fragrances that please Him. He has never been one to abide where a foul odour dwells, not even when His one and beloved Son took upon Himself the sins of the world at Calvary's cross. He could not behold the iniquity and stench of sin, condemnation, and death that Christ bore on our behalf.

*"And about the ninth hour **Jesus** cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My **God**, my **God**, why hast thou forsaken me?"*
Matthew 27:46 (KJV)

It was logical; **God** could not behold the iniquity upon Him.

*"Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by **God**, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."*
Isaiah 53:4–5

***Jesus** redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us*
Galatians 3:13

He was made a sin offering, and He died in our place, on our account, so that He might bring us near to **God**.

What fragrance are we offering?

Having established the fact that it is in **God**'s nature to love sweet-smelling fragrances and abhor unclean and unpleasant odours, how do we think He feels about the present state of His Church?

More and more people have had their hearts broken and their faith shattered in the very place called the House of the **Lord** where they expected solace.

Destinies have been thwarted by leaders whom the people trusted. Rape and sodomy abound in His house. All forms of sexual perversion and unholy politics abound. Ritualistic and occult practices abound. Fraud and scams abound and the list seems endless. Many die in poverty in wealthy churches while the clergy move from building one massive auditorium to another, forgetting that these edifices will eventually burn away.

*"But the Day of the **Lord** will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*
2 Peter 3:10

Oh, how the Church smells and is alone and powerless and knoweth it not! In many cases, religious system and networks are in place to ensure that upcoming leaders and called of the **Lord** are timely hijacked, diverted and mentored by the so called 'Fathers' who have long lost it like the old Prophet in 1 Kings:13. And like the new Prophet in same scriptures, the end is destruction, miscarriage of destiny and an unexpected end.

There was a time when the Church was a place of supernatural atmosphere, where His presence brought forth healings and miracles that were neither manufactured nor staged, where people shared in love and in oneness. The odour has become so unbearable that many have left the Church and found comfort elsewhere or in isolation, thus falling into another trap set by the enemy.

"At that time many will fall away and will betray and hate one another, and many false prophets will arise and deceive many. Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold."
Matthew 24:10–12

How did we get here?

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."
Matthew 13:24–30

A call to stand firm

So, take no offence, for we were warned!

The idea is to bring shame, heartbreak, and disappointment into the Church so that we become offended and depart from its midst, as isolation is one of the most effective ways to make a target more vulnerable.

The enemy has planted his own agents and brought corruption into the assemblies of the brethren, just so that you may be derailed.

It is also important to note that some others including Leaders in the Church have fallen because of their own lusts or weaknesses.

"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."
Proverbs 24:10

A man of **God** is still a man, and a woman of **God** is still a woman. Unfortunately, Christianity sometimes appears to be the only army that gathers in groups and shoots its wounded dead to the point where some fallen brethren are never able to rise again.

Have we forgotten how Satan tried to have Peter, but **Jesus** prayed for him?

Yes, a lot has gone wrong. But we cannot allow the **Lord**'s bride to remain violated and humiliated while we stand aloof to judge.

A call to prayer and repentance

This is a call to intercession. A call to understand the schemes of the enemy. A call to get on our knees and contend for the faith that was once delivered unto us! It is a call to depart from iniquity for our **God** is the same **God** that held His hand from Israel even for the sin of one man (Joshua 7).

"As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations."
Ezekiel 20:41 (ESV)

The battle is not over, and we should not give up until we recover the lost glory of the church.

Do not give up on what **God** has not given up on! Intercede for the Church, and do not be found among those contributing to the foul odour of the **Lord**'s bride. Bow your head in prayer, say a word of prayer to Him who always listens, repent from your sins and errors, ask for help for by strength shall no man prevail. Shalom!

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