

The background of the entire page is a dark, almost black, space filled with wisps of white and light grey incense smoke. The smoke rises from the bottom and drifts upwards, creating soft, ethereal patterns that swirl and billow. The lighting is subtle, highlighting the texture and movement of the smoke against the dark backdrop.

# *Incensed!*

Personal Processing  
Through Prayer

*Christ, Front and Center*

*“<sup>11</sup> Aaron shall present the bull as the sin offering for his own sins and shall make atonement for himself and for his house [the other priests], and shall kill the bull as the sin offering for himself.  
<sup>12</sup> He shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the [bronze] altar before the Lord, and his two hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil [into the Holy of Holies],  
<sup>13</sup> And put the incense on the fire [in the censer] before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon [the ark of] the Testimony, lest he die.”*

*–Leviticus 16:11-13*

*Discovery Three:*

Prayer keeps Christ front and  
center in our lives.

1. Four plants were gathered to create the incense used in the Old Testament tabernacle: stacte, onycha, galbanum and frankincense.

2. Stacte is believed to be myrrh, which freely flows from the tree. Like the myrrh flows from the tree, so did the love of God in Christ when He freely poured forth His blood on the cross for our sin so that we could be returned to fellowship with God.

3. The resin needed for the incense could only be collected by wounding the bark, breaking the stem or beating the plant. This is a representation of Christ and His suffering.

4. When we pray, we carry into the Presence of God what we (by our sin) did to Christ and what He did for us.



5. We have free access to approach God because Christ, rather than the veil, is now suspended front and center between us.

6. Aaron was to enter into the Holy of Holies with his two hands full of sweet incense.

7. This access into God's Presence is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline so amazingly desirable we are enjoined to grab it with both hands!

8. God wants to be with us! It is through worship and prayer that we enter His presence!

9. Burning coals activated the incense. These coals came from the bronze altar; its fire having been lit by God.

10. The burning incense yielded two results: smoke and fragrance.

11. The olfactory bulb, which is the organ that gives us the ability to smell uses the same pathways in the brain that are used for memory and also for emotion.

12. When we approach God in prayer, we smell like His Son...His favorite fragrance.



13. Lighting the incense resulted in smoke AND fragrance which not only filled the room but was also transferred to the hair, skin and clothing.

14. This place of prayer where  
Heaven touches earth...where  
Holiness meets humanity...is a not  
only a place of sacred communion  
but also of powerful  
transformation.

15. When we approach God in prayer, we are allowing His purifying fire to make contact with us as we seek Him. If we have surrendered to the process and allowed the transformation, when we come out from our Inner Room, we come out bearing the sweet aroma of Jesus.

16. We are not only directly affected internally by these moments spent with Him, but the fragrance of Who He is will be transferred and visible in our outward behaviors as well.

Next Week:

*Roar of the Roses*