



# *Incensed!*

Personal Processing  
Through Prayer

# *Roar of the Roses*

Discovery Four: Part A

Discovery Four: Prayer is a means of survival that brings our temperaments under control.

*“Then the Lord said to Moses, Take sweet spices—stacte, **onycha**, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense, an equal amount of each—<sup>35</sup> And make of them incense, a perfume after the perfumer’s art, seasoned with salt and mixed, pure and sacred.” –Exodus*

*30:34-35*

1. Onycha was harvested from the rockrose bush. This bush produces a gum that is known as labdanum, which was collected for use in the incense.

2. Labdanum is very sticky. It can be retrieved by two methods.

3. In ancient times combs were used to collect labdanum from wild goats that grazed on the rockrose bushes. Because goats tend to be temperamental animals , combing the labdanum from the goats' hair caused them to cry out... or to “roar” out in protest.

4. Labdanum was also harvested using a lambadistrion. This was a kind of rake to which a double row of leathern thongs were fixed instead of teeth. This is reminiscent of the whip, consisting of multiple leather straps with pieces of metal and bone at the ends, which was used to scourge Jesus.



5. Jesus was heard crying out with a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” He was fully aware of the challenges that we would face in trying to survive in this world, and His plan for our survival is still working today. Connection with the Holy Spirit is our means of persevering and maintaining a level of peace that supersedes all of our fears and keeps our hearts and minds calm.

6. The rockrose bush, which produces the labdanum needed for the incense, is a plant equipped for survival. It will help us to discover how connecting with the Holy Spirit through prayer will not only help us to become spiritual survivalists but also to respond appropriately in any situation without letting it “get our goats”.

7. The rockrose bush requires a sunny position.

8. The light that God has provided through Jesus exposes the truth about who we really are, where we've been, what we've done, and how we think and feel... not for the sake of judgment or condemnation, but to guide us in how to live lives characterized by peace in our hearts.

9. To become spiritual survivalists we know we need the light of Christ in our lives. Our willingness to pray and surrender to Christ's exposing light will determine our responses when the darkness threatens to overtake our lives

10. The rockrose bush prefers gritty soil and actually grows better in poor soil.

11. Grit is defined as “firmness of mind or spirit: unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger”.

12. Our responses when we face poor circumstances in our lives reveals our spiritual grit.



13. If we would be spiritual survivalists who, like the rockrose bush, endure and thrive in poor circumstances, we must determine to make personal prayer a part of our daily living.

14. The individual flowers of a rockrose only last for a day, but it blooms profusely. Life in Jesus grants us this same chance to bloom and be beautiful for Him over and over again, each day.

Next Week:

*Roar of the Roses*

Discovery Four: Part B