

Incensed!

Personal Processing Through
Prayer

Slow and Steady

1. Known for its whiteness, frankincense was called “frank” because of the freeness with which, when burned, it gives forth its odor. It also burns for a long time, with a steady flame.¹

2. As we become seekers who endure, our tendency will be to flee to God in prayer, seeking Him for refuge that will anchor us in our place.

3. Hope is one of the foundational characteristics that remains steady in the heart of a mature believer.

4. Just as the Boswellia tree anchors itself to the rock for stability, so we anchor ourselves to God through prayer. It is through and by our prayers we are granted mighty indwelling strength that enables us to HOLD FAST our HOPE in Christ!

5. Prayer is not ALL we can do; it is WHAT we can do

6. A wise response is: “first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.”²

This is wisdom's stance.

7. The Boswellia tree from which frankincense flows thrives in exposed areas in the rock.³

8. Spiritual transparency is a condition of the heart that will enable us to be visible to the world even in our struggles.

9. Spiritually transparent people live with an awareness that God's invisible shield of unconditional love and acceptance surrounds them, and it is enough. They can reveal their struggles to the outside world and yet remain steadfast in their hope in God.

10. This is what it means to bear the Light of Jesus, burning for a long time with a steady flame. When faced with uncertainty, we do not flail about in fear, rushing here and there for a solution. We anchor ourselves to God through Christ our Foundation Stone, praying for wisdom and the ability to endure when we don't know what to do.

11. Frankincense of the best quality not only comes from trees grown in dry, elevated places, but it is also harvested in the hottest season.⁴

12. If we want our lives to reveal a relationship with Christ of the best quality, we will “keep our wits about us” and discipline ourselves to be people of passionate and regular prayer.

13. Perseverance is “steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state, etc., especially in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement.”³

14. Perseverance connects the world to the hope we have in Jesus.

15. In Hebrew the idea attached to waiting in this passage is to tarry, to look for with eager expectation, to hope.⁶

16. As we rise up closer to God in prayer our perspective changes.

We leave our difficult circumstances at ground level and begin to see with new vision as we spend time with our Father who sits on high and rules over all.

17. Remember that when lit, frankincense easily gives off its fragrance. As we spend time with God through prayer our lives will reveal the evidence of Jesus and His influence in us. The fragrance of Christ will begin to flow easily and freely.

18. Prayer keeps us lit and
burning.

References

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