

*Of Mites and Myrrh*

# Sweet Fragrances

Part 2 - March 09, 2007

Before Promised Land was conceived, back when there was only the nucleus of Mustard Seed Fellowship changing “business as usual” in the local church, our position on offerings was set. God doesn’t want your money, He wants your heart. Once He has that, He impacts everything you do, including how you spend money. So at Promised Land we don’t ask for your money; we ask for your heart. All the same, if you want to give money we will accept it. Now, since we have that settled, let’s talk about money.

***God provides our funding through two sources: the World and the Body.***

***Funds from the World***

All money is God’s money. When the church is the beneficiary of funds from the world, i.e. fund raising or return on investments, that money is still God’s money and carries no stigma. The bills have pictures of the same dead presidents and hold the same buying power as green bills given by believers.

Currently, Promised Land has no “driver” for yard sales or fruit sales, so our previous fund raising efforts are inactive. As for return on investments, the Relocation Fund is earning a healthy interest rate while the Lord prepares the “promised land”. Tossing Funds from the World into a very small heap, we turn to Funds from the Body.

***Funds from the Body***

Funds from the Body are either tithe or offerings. Tithe is simply the returning to the Lord of that which is His. Tithe is a spiritual obligation, ten percent of your increase. Like the taxes Uncle Sam deducts from your paycheck, tithe is paid before any secondary obligations like mortgage or utility bills. At Promised Land, tithe is used solely for the support of the pastor.

Offerings, on the other hand, are given out of the abundance of what the Lord has provided. Offerings given out of pride, guilt, or even in an effort to support the church, are offensive to God, whereas offerings given because God has amazed the giver with His generosity are a sweet fragrance before His throne.

***Fragrances and Flavors***

Recently, I was given a box of sixteen small scented candles. Inside the box was a piece of parchment printed with a diagram of the candles and the scent of each one. When I open the box to choose which fragrance I will light, it is just like picking the flavor of chocolate from a heart-shaped box. Our offerings are like that before God. Each one is different; each has its own fragrance and flavor before Him. In a special way, each offering has the giver’s name written for the Lord to see, and each offering falls into a particular category, or fragrance of giving.

In the next letter I’ll explain more about the different categories of giving. My prayer is that God will reveal to your heart when He desires a special fragrance of offering from you, and that He will guide your hand as you designate how it shall be used.

