

## E-DEVOTION FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

I find myself spending a little more time thinking about our senses... sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste.

After speaking with someone who had lost his sense of smell during a bout with the coronavirus, I was reminded of what a pleasure it is to smell something wonderful. Fresh baked bread! For sure... but before I sat down to write this, I took a step outside. It rained! Something that is worth a celebration here in Southern Arizona! There is just nothing like the smell of the moist ground after a good rain.

So... I found myself happy to 'see' the raindrops on the cactus, and to 'smell' the earth's excitement over that moisture.

Not long after my mother died, I remember being in Dayton's in Fargo, ND. In a brief moment I felt my breath taken away. I could smell her! Well, it was just some other lovely lady who was standing at my side... she was wearing the perfume my mother wore most of her life. She would get a bottle from my dad for her birthday and Christmas every year. It wasn't expensive, I am sure. But it was her 'scent'. And to this very day... I can identify it.

In II Corinthians 2:15 we read, *"For we are like a sweet smelling incense offered by Christ to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being lost."* We are God's FRAGRANCE in the world. What a beautiful thought!

When we sense a wonderful aroma spread around us, it's quite pleasant, isn't it? That is what we can be for our world. Not Stinkers! But 'Aroma Spreaders'! Think about that today. It's rather easy to spread our stinking thoughts but it might take a little more effort to spread that sweet perfume that God has given us to put to good use.

I'm stuck on figuring out how to use my 'good senses' in better ways. In the meantime, wear a mask. Fold your hands, bow your heads, and ask God for ways to spread that sweet perfume around everywhere. And please get that vaccine when you can. Do it for all of us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, You have given us so many ways to be about your mission. Inspire us to cleanse our thoughts and our hearts. We can be so stinking rotten sometimes... give us strength to do your good work. Amen. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen