

EXODUS 30 // INCENSE - DESIRE-DRIVEN RELATIONSHIP

Sermon Outline Handout

By Kevin McGill

I. Attraction – The Nature of Incense (Exodus 30:1–10, 34–38)

Incense symbolizes a relationship of mutual attraction between God and His people.

- Ritual: Acacia wood overlaid with gold; fragrant spices blended by the perfumer's art; offered every morning and evening.
- Meaning: Incense is cologne, perfume, deodorant—an agent of attraction.
- Fulfillment: God desires a relationship driven not by obligation, but by mutual desire.
- John Eldredge: "Desire is the impulse of the will toward what we think will satisfy us."
- Jonathan Edwards: "The enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied."
- Application: What compels your relationship with God—fear or desire?

II. Incense of Prayer – Our Words Draw God Near (Psalm 141:2; Luke 1:10; Rev 5:8; 8:4)

Prayer is the fragrance that attracts God's presence.

- Scripture: "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you" (Ps 141:2).
- Truth: Every word you pray moves God toward you.
- Jesus' Example: Blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:51) — Jesus listens; Lazarus (John 11:43–44) — Jesus speaks and acts.
- Application: God is both listener and speaker. Send your words to Him daily; trust His Word will answer.

III. Incense of Witness – The Aroma of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14–16)

Our experience of Christ makes Him attractive to others.

- Scripture: "We are the aroma of Christ... among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing."
- Meaning: Knowledge of Christ is not mere intellect but lived experience ("ginōskō").
- Illustration: Nurse confessing her mistake — fragrance of Christ shown in humility and truth above ego.
- Application: Christ's character in us (patience, justice, forgiveness) spreads like a sweet aroma.