

The Sweet Aroma of our Lord



*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ,
and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.*
2 Corinthians 2:14 NASB

Java and Kiwi are sixteen-year-old Amazon parrots. I raised them from the day their little eggs hatched and their mama did not know how to feed them. I discovered something about Amazon parrots that I find absolutely enthralling. I had always noticed a very pleasant, sweet musky odor when I held my Amazon Parrots. The scent has the quality of an understated expensive perfume. Later, I learned from other Amazon owners that each Amazon has its own unique aroma and this scent is released only when they are in a very loving mood, extremely happy or content. It is described by some owners as a floral scent, and by others as a rather musky scent, but most find the aroma very pleasing. It is literally "the scent of love."

After learning this aspect of the Amazon, their "fragrant aroma" became even more precious to me as I realized that this scent was produced in those special moments when they are feeling very happy to be near me and was produced out of their devotion to me. I noticed this aroma most often when I take them out of the cage to sit on my hand or when I draw near to their cage to visit them! They do not emit this aroma when they are playing or actively prowling around the room, only when they are sitting quietly with me. It is often accompanied by a deep throated little hum.

It has always amazed me to discover the ways in which God has given us displays of various facets of His character and His Word through His creation. What a beautiful way for Him to illumine the verse that says that we are a fragrant aroma of His Presence in every place. Is it that same feeling of love and contentment in us, which produces that aroma for others want to know Him? If so, it makes me more determined to take the time to sit in His presence, bask in His love, and allow His aroma to penetrate my being. Every time I smell the pleasant fragrance the parrots exude when they come into my presence, I am reminded of the way we are also a pleasant aroma of His presence to those who are around us!

Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.
Job 37:14 (KJV)