

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Fragrance of Faith November 13, 2018 Suzi Armstrong

John 1.1, 14 NIV

¹ **In the beginning was the Word**, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

¹⁴ **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Faith starts with a WORD from God. This is the beginning of faith – God has spoken and we believe. The WORD is the mustard seed of faith – it is the BEGINNING of faith, what we believe. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. God’s promises are “yes and amen”. He is faithful to keep His promises.

We discern the promises of God by hearing the WORD God speaks and then holding that WORD in our heart. To discern is to see (perceive, have knowledge of, understand) in the light (illumination of truth, reality according to God) of God (who is righteous and holy, just in all of His ways). We look away from the natural realm and fasten our gaze upon Jesus, who birthed faith within us. As the promise of God takes root in our heart and grows it becomes tangible. We can see the reality of the promise of God. We can taste it, smell it, feel it – the promise of God has become flesh. As we soak our thoughts and the desire of our heart in the promises of God, this releases the fragrance of His promise on our breath. Others can smell that we have been eating the WORD of His promise. The fragrance of faith fills the atmosphere around us. It is a barrier or shield that protects us from the fiery darts of the evil one who comes to kill, steal and destroy the promise of God. The promise of God now dwells in us – it is has become part of who we are. It is a sweet smelling aroma that saturates us with the fragrance of the faithfulness of God.



2 Corinthians 1.20-22 NIV

²⁰ For **no matter how many promises God has made**, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ **Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ.** He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing what is to come.**

2 Corinthians 2.14-16 NIV

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s **triumphal procession** and **uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.** ¹⁵ For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ **To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life.** And who is equal to such a task?

- The fragrance of our faith in the promise of God is a gas chamber of death to the enemy.
- The fragrance of our faith breaks forth in our heart as the LIGHT of GOD, shattering mindsets – bringing every thought captive into the obedience of Christ. And the fragrance of our faith grows exponentially.

John 6.29 NIV

Jesus answered, **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."**

- Light pierces darkness.
- The fragrance of faith puts to death the deeds of darkness, dispersing the lie of the enemy that comes to steal the promise of God.

As we look at our city, we speak the promise of God. We release the fragrance of our faith into the atmosphere of our city; over the government, over the people and through the streets. **Detroit belongs to the Lord!** By faith we speak to Detroit releasing the word of the Lord over our city; it is the promise of God and the aroma of life.

Matthew 5.14-16 NIV Reworded

¹⁴ "Detroit, You are the light of the world. **A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.** ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way **Detroit, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**



2 Corinthians 3.16-18 NIV Reworded

¹⁶ But **whenever you, Detroit, turn to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom.** ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are **being transformed into his image** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



2 Corinthians 4.4-6 NIV Reworded

⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ **For Detroit, the sound that you release is Jesus Christ as Lord,** and you are a servant for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in you to give the light of the knowledge of **God's glory displayed** in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4.18 NIV Reworded

So **Detroit, fix your eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,** since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 5.7 NIV Reworded

Detroit, live by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5.20-21 NIV Reworded

²⁰ **Detroit, as Christ's ambassador city,** as though God were making his appeal through you. **We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.** ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 7.1 NIV Reworded

Therefore Detroit, **since you have these promises purify yourselves from everything that contaminates the city**, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 9.8, 10 NIV Reworded

⁸ **Detroit, God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.**

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will **enlarge the harvest** of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 13.14 NIV

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

