***A Life That Manifests the Fragrance of God (John 15:12)***

THE COMMAND TO LOVE: PUTTING GOD’S GLORY ON DISPLAY

——John 15:12 is a reiteration of John 13:35 where Jesus declared that when His people love others, it puts God’s glory and goodness on display for others to see what His personality is like, especially in His kindness for sinful people, and it is the way God has chosen to usher us into a supernatural quality in our inner life.

By our loving others, Jesus looks attractive to those who observe it.

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn. 15:12)

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn. 13:35)

“...that they may be made perfect in one [love and unity], and that the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)

——The Lord intentionally and joyfully bound His reputation on earth to the measure of love that His people walk in.

His plan is to manifest His fragrance or glory into the earth (2 Cor. 2:14-15) through His people who are His “official” witnesses and ambassadors (Isa. 43:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:20).

“...God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses [manifests, NAS] the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.   
For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.” (2 Cor. 2:14-15)

What is fragrance?  
**fragrance**  
(1), sweet aroma (1). a smell, aroma, fragrance.

A:  
a sweet or delicate odor (as of fresh flowers, pine trees, or perfume)

B:   
something (such as a perfume) compounded to give off a sweet or pleasant odor

(2) the quality or state of having a sweet odor

Fragrance: The purpose of fragrance is to attract.

There is a lifestyle in which God’s fragrance is manifest through people.

It wows, woos, and inspires believers and unbelievers.

Every saintly life on earth, is a sweet fragrance unto God, and every sinful life is a stench in his nostrils.

As the rose scents the evening air, so a pure life scatters a sweet Christian influence and a knowledge of God throughout the world.

The literal translation of 2 Cor.2:14 reads thus:

"But thanks be to God, who leads me on from place to place in the train of his triumph, to celebrate his victory over the enemies of Christ, and by me sends forth the knowledge of him, a stream of fragrant incense, throughout the world."

A saintly life diffuses a sweet, heavenly fragrance throughout the world, and brings a knowledge of God and the nature of his salvation to the minds of men.

Let me exhort you, therefore, to a pure life, a life full of devotion and reverence to God.

You can make your life, by God's grace, a constant, flowing stream of fragrant incense, whose sweetness will linger long on the air after you have passed to higher realms. So may it be.