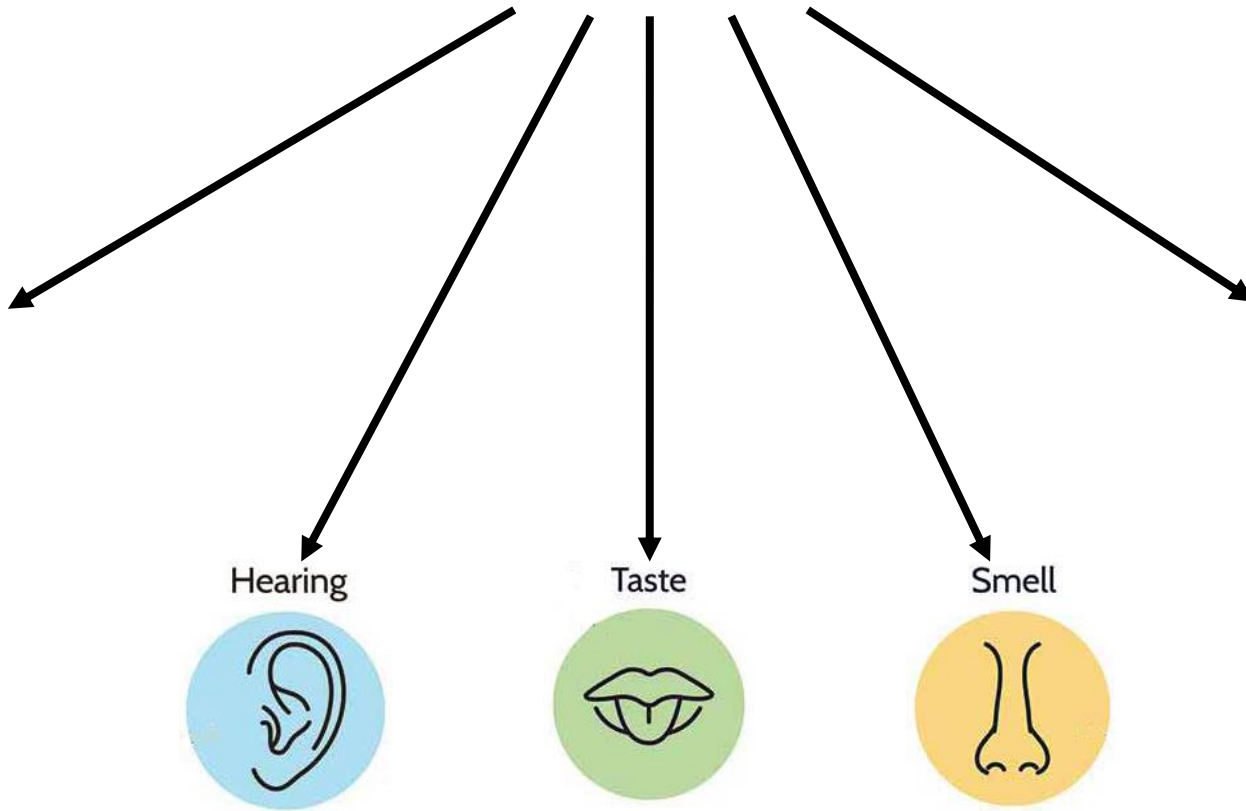


5 Senses



What's that Smell?

Smell is produced when a particular object emits particles in the form of gases and vapors in the air. Those particles spread rapidly in the air and can travel long distance. Sweet, pleasant smells draw us to receive and relish that odor. Sour, bad smells drive us to refuse and reject that odor.

There are some things that do not produce their particular vapor until heated, stirred, crushed, scratched. Companies spend millions to capture just the right fragrance.

Scripture uses the physical sense of smell to illustrate spiritual reality.

The spiritual sense of smell works in a similar way as the physical one.

Attitudes and actions produce “vapors” which are picked up by the spiritual nose and it bears witness to our spirit which reveals the character or condition of the person releasing the odor.

Often these vapors of the soul are not released until agitated, crushed, heated. God often allows circumstances to bring our certain odors that we may correct the problems causing them.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

What smells good to God's nose?

What smells gross to God's nose?

Smell in Scripture most often indicates a state of acceptance and favor, attraction or rejection, disfavor and repulsion. It is applied to both God and people.

The Israelites stinks before Pharaoh

Exodus 5:21

The foremen said to them, "May the Lord judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials.

Song of Solomon speaks of the smells of romance.

Song of Solomon 4:10

Your love delights me, my treasure, my bride. Your love is better than wine, your perfume more fragrant than spices.

Israel stunk to the Philistines

1 Samuel 13:4

And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines.

Ammonites stunk to David.

2 Samuel 10:6

When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David.

Levitical offerings were a sweet-smelling savor to God.

Leviticus 1:9

but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord.

Those were examples of not an actual smell but the attitudes and actions behind the smell.

The sweet savor of obedient,
selfless sacrifice.

or

The sour stench of proud,
selfishness.

Usually, the things that smell gross to God are the attitudes and actions born out of proud rebellion and selfishness.

Proverbs 13:5

The godly hate lies;

the wicked cause shame and disgrace.

Ecclesiastic 10:1

As dead flies cause even a bottle of
perfume to stink,
so a little foolishness spoils great
wisdom and honor.

Isaiah 1:13

Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts me! As for your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath and your special days for fasting—they are all sinful and false. I want no more of your pious meetings.

Amos 5:21-24

"I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. 22 I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings. 23 Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

Our self-centered rebellion stinks to God. Foolishness stinks to God. Our attitudes and actions centered in selfishness stink to God.

Our attempts to make God share glory and honor with our other gods stink. No matter how we try to cover it up with sweet smelling things, the basic distasteful odor is still there.

What smells good to God?

We encounter God's sense of smell way back in Genesis.

Genesis 8:21

And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Through the Old Testament God required sacrifice.

The sacrifices indicated repentance, obedience and restoration of fellowship, it was a sweet smell to God.

How much more the smell of the sacrifice of His very own beloved Son was sweet to God. Through the mercy of God, we can change our smell.

We are to be imitators of Christ as we walk in love as He walked in love.

Put off the sour stench of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19-21

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Put on the sweet savor of love in
the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

To the degree we put on Christ, we will smell like Him. You take on the odor of the ones you hang-out with.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. 15 Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 2:16-17

To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

17 You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us.

When we give ourselves first to God and then to others, we radiate a sweet smell to God and others. Paul talked often of pouring His life out for the sake of others.

We have become so versed in selfishness. The essence of love and the essence of good smell to God is giving our lives away.

He who would save his life will lose it
in the saving. He who would lose his
life for my sake will save it in the
losing. He is no fool who gives what
He cannot keep to gain what he
cannot loose.

Romans 15:1-3

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

Philippians 2:3-4

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

We will never know the fulness of God if we live life with a self-centered focus. The body of Christ was designed to serve one another. When we know the love of Christ for us and the love of Christ through us, only then will we experience the fulness of God in us for God IS LOVE.

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We do offer up sacrifices.

Hebrews 13:15-16

Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.