

Take time, don't forget to...
Stop and Smell the Rose

Song of Solomon 2:1 I *am* **the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys**. 2 As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. (*Emp. Added*)

- rose- Heb.2261-meadow saffron [Webster: a plant having orange stigmas which are *the upper tip of the pistil of a flower, receiving the pollen*]

- There are at least two songs in our song books that compare Jesus to the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley (363 *Jesus, Rose of Sharon* and 274 *The Lily of the Valley*) even though the Song of Solomon was comparing one woman among many others. Sharon was a piece of land where David's cattle were fed, a place of excellence and a fold of flocks. Such a place to a herdsman would have been considered very fruitful. A rose* from this place would have been exceptionally beautiful. (**the white narcissus, [Webster: a bulb plant with white, yellow or orange flowers.]*)

1Ch 27:29 And over the herds (*of David*) that fed **in Sharon** was Shitrai (*Heb.7861-shit-rah'ee*) the Sharonite: ... (*Emp. Added*)

Isa 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. 2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, *and* the excellency of our God.

Isa 65:10 And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for My people that have sought Me.

- So why do these songs compare our Lord to such a flower? Probably because of the scent of them being compared to the life He gave as a sweet savor to God. Because of that we need to stop and smell the Rose, i.e., take time out of our busy schedules to remind ourselves to Whom we belong.

Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

1Co 7:22 For he that is called in the Lord, *being* a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, *being* free, is Christ's servant.

Ways we can stop and smell the Rose

1. Bible Study

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But ***His word*** was **in mine heart** (*Heb.3820-intellect*) as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*. (*Emp. Added*)

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

2Ti 2:15 Study (*Gk.4704-to make effort, be diligent*) to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman (*Gk.2040-toiler*) that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (*Gk.3718-to dissect [expound*] correctly*) the word of truth. (*Emp. Added*)

2Pe 1:8 For if these things (*faith, virtue, **knowledge**, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity*) be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall neither be barren (Gk.692-inactive, that is, unemployed; lazy, useless)* nor unfruitful in the **knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

Joh 15:8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye **bear much fruit**; so shall ye be My disciples. (*Emp. Added*)

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, **and in the knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen. (*Emp. Added*)

2. Benevolence

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit (*Gk.1980-to inspect; by extension to go to see, relieve*) the fatherless (*Gk.3737-bereaved ["orphan"], that is, parentless*) and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

- True benevolence begins when we put aside self and concentrate on others. Only then will we see how miniscule our own troubles truly are.

3. Evangelism

Luk 19:37 And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; 38 Saying, Blessed *be* the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. 39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, Master, rebuke Thy disciples. 40 And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, **the stones would immediately cry out**. (*Emp. Added*)

- If the stones would cry out how are we any less privileged or responsible to speak the name of Jesus to the lost around us?

Act 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed *them* to prison. 4 Therefore **they** that were scattered abroad (*Gk.1289-to sow throughout, that is, [figuratively] distribute in foreign lands*) **went every where preaching** (*Gk.2097-to announce good news ["evangelize"] especially the Gospel*) **the word**. (*Emp. Added*)

2Ti 4:2 Preach (*Gk.2784-to herald [Webster: to announce]*) the word; be instant (*Gk.2186-be present, be at hand*) in season (*Gk.2122-opportunity:-conveniently*), out of season (*Gk.171-inopportunity*); reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching (*Gk.2833-to scratch, that is, to tickle*) ears (*Gk.189-hearing*); 4 And they shall turn

away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch (*Gk.3525-to abstain from wine [keep sober]*) thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work (*Gk.2041-toil*) of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

4. Teaching

- How can a teacher not know what he/she is teaching? Teaching requires a lot of time and focus on the subject being taught during which the teacher is learning.

Rom 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? ...

Whether in a home Bible study or when the saints come together, teachers are in high demand! Would that be one way you might consider stopping and at least sniffing the Rose?

5. Attendance

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching**. (*This is not speaking of the final day of judgment when Jesus will return because no one will "see the day approaching". This was speaking to a Hebrew audience [Mat 24] as it pertained to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.*) 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (*Emp. Added*)

- The person with the best attendance in our worship is Satan. Even though he is not omnipresent he does try to tempt the saint with the world's influence in every assembly. That influence is in the form of lack of focus toward the Lord's supper and our praise to God by thinking of other appointments of the day. There can be no excuse that would take the place of **wanting** to be in the assembly of the saints where **Jesus is in the midst** (*Mat 18:20*). If not in the morning, we have the Lord's supper in the evening to accommodate those who have to work or are otherwise indisposed. Poor health, or other similar reasons, would be the only exceptions that God could possibly permit. And since Jesus did not deny His Father when He went to the cross for the sins of all mankind why would anyone want to deny Him His rightful praise by not being in the assembly whenever possible. The same God that has blessed us with the fruits of our labors is the same God that can take them away or judge us accordingly when He sends His Son to separate the sheep from the goats!

6. Relationships

Joh 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are My disciples, **if** ye have love one to another. (*Emp. Added*)

Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectioned **one to another** with brotherly love; in honour preferring (*Gk.4285-to lead the way for others, that is, to show deference [Webster: courteous respect]*) one another; (*Emp. Added*)

1Th 3:12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love **one toward another**, and **toward all men**, even as we do toward you: 13 **To the end** (purpose) He may stablish (Gk.4741-to set fast, that is, [literally] to turn resolutely* in a certain direction) your hearts (Gk.2588-thoughts or feelings [mind]) unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints (Gk.40-hagios- sacred) [here speaking of His angels]. *Fixed and firm in purpose. (Emp. Added)

1Pe 3:8 ..., be ye all of **one mind**, **having compassion** one of another, **love as brethren**, be **pitiful**, be **courteous**: 9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that **ye are thereunto called**, that (purpose) ye should **inherit a blessing**. (Emp. Added)

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers (Gk.3310-a portion, that is, province, share, participation) of the **inheritance of the saints** (Gk.40-morally blameless) **in light** (Gk.5457-to shine or make manifest; compare 5326-to lighten, and 5346-to show or make known) [thus, the "enlightened ones"]: (Emp. Added)

1Th 5:5 Ye are all **the children of light**, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (Emp. Added)

7. Prayer

Jas 5:16 Confess (Gk.1843-acknowledge) your faults (Gk.3900-a side slip [lapse or deviation]) one to another (no one's perfect and we need to acknowledge this openly), and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent (Gk.1754-to be active, efficient, be mighty in) prayer of a righteous man availeth (Gk.2840-to have [or exercise] force) much.

Mat 6:7 But when ye pray, **use not vain repetitions**, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their **much speaking** (not very "efficient"). 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him. (Emp. Added)

- Notice how Jesus prayed in the garden while His disciples slept.

Luk 22:44 And being in **an** agony (Gk.74-agonia-a struggle, anguish) He prayed more earnestly (Gk.1617-more intently): and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Emp. Added)

- Not only is this type of agony only mentioned here in all the New Testament, once Jesus was in such a state His focus became **more** fervent. Because Luke was a physician, his use of this medical term is only used here.

Dr. Mead from Galen observes, "Cases sometimes happen in which, through mental pressure, the pores may be so dilated that the blood may issue from them; so that there may be a bloody sweat." Clark

Heb 5:6 As He saith also in another place (Ps 110:4), Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up

prayers and supplications with **strong crying and tears** unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; 8 Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; 9 And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. (*Emp. Added*)

So painful was the intensity in which Jesus prayed that Luke was inspired by Holy Spirit to mention it here. How often do we pray with conviction, maybe not to the same extent that Jesus did, but with the *fervency* of a humble and righteous saint?

As we begin a new year

Can we resolve to stop and smell the Rose?

1Pe 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted (*Gk.1089-to experience*) that the Lord is gracious.

1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Last year is past. How much more time will we pledge to give to the service of our Lord in the coming year?

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ... "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ... "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 2:38 ... "repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ... "even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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