

Dan 5:23

And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

Today during my reading time at lunch, I was reading the book of Daniel, and when I came across this verse I just had to stop. With my reading of the last part of this verse, the feeling I had of the Lord was almost overwhelming,

† ***and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.***

At that point I took a deep breath and was reminded that the only reason I was able to take that breath was because of the Lord, because He holds my breath in His hands.

And then I read the very last part again, which reads:

† ***you have not glorified.***

At that, the Lord reminded me of what it means to Him when we do glorify Him. He did this with a smell. It was the smell of new spring flowers in the air. It was a smell I haven't smelled for a long time due to all the rain and cloudiness here in not so sunny California.

It reminded me of this next verse.

Rev 8:3-4 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Our prayers and worship are a sweet aroma to the Lord, kind of like that wonderful aroma of flowers I smelled today.

But that's not the end of the story.

Later in the afternoon I went outside. As I did there was this awful smell, due to the field next door being fertilized with the sun beating down on it.

What came immediately to mind was; if our prayers and worship to the Lord are like fresh spring flowers, then our sins must be like a recently fertilized field with the sun beating on it.

What smell are you bringing before the altar of the Lord?

† **Ephesians 5:2** *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.*