

## **Aroma of Favour (I)**

*“And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed.”* (Genesis 27:27, New King James Version).

This is the key Bible verse for the **“Come and See”** devotional today.

This verse forms part of the narrative of how Jacob deceitfully obtained the blessings meant for his brother, Esau (read Genesis 27). This series of devotionals will focus on the enduring effect of this blessing upon Jacob’s life. Shortly before Isaac pronounced the blessings upon Jacob, he was precise about the state of his soul; this needed to be correct for the blessings to be effective. Isaac asked for a special meal to be brought to him and said: *“bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son’s game, so that my soul may bless you.”* (Genesis 27.25a, New King James Version). This statement made by Isaac is our main focus of attention.

As explained in Genesis 27 it was essential for Jacob to disguise himself as Esau to succeed in obtaining his father’s blessing by deception and in order to do this his mother covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with goatskin. (Genesis 27.16, New International Version). This deception worked because Isaac was almost blind. After Isaac was content with the meal prepared for him, he asked Jacob to come near, thinking that it was Esau. At that point Jacob would have thought he would be caught in his deception and he must have expected his father to ask him why he smelled like a goat. However, Isaac did not smell Jacob’s disguise of the goatskin and instead, he smelt a different aroma which was likened to the ‘output of a divine touch.’ This can be termed as the ‘*Aroma of Favour*’ and can be related to the promise of God concerning the righteous as contained in the Book of Psalms: *“for You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favour you will surround him as with a shield.”* (Psalm 5:12, New King James Version).

None of us can live in isolation to achieve our divine purpose in this world: we will always come in contact with someone, either daily or occasionally. The kind of reception we get is often determined by people’s perceptions of us, either of our appearance or personality. This is why we need to emit what we can term the ‘*fragrance of acceptance.*’

Isaac needed to be pleased to proclaim long-lasting blessings. When your character, lifestyle and choices please God, then He covers you with His favour. Everyone you meet will then treat you differently and with respect. The Bible states: *“when a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”* (Proverbs 16:7, New King James Version). The favour of God can be likened to a ray of sunshine.

Let us pray: “Father, let your favour replace every odour of rejection in my habitation, family and all other areas of my life,” in Jesus’ Mighty Name, Amen.

**Bible Reference:** *“O God, favour me because of your loving-kindness. Take away my wrong-doing because of the greatness of your loving-pity.”* (Psalm 51:1, New Life Version).

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