



**The Wife's Response to Her Husband Demonstrates Occupation with Christ; Fragrance of Memories: Perfume & Music As Vectors for Recall, SOS 1:12**

4. Occupation with Christ is the capacity to love someone who is invisible and the willingness to place one's complete faith and trust in Him and His providential care and provision.
5. Occupation with Christ means that the believer's soul concentrates on someone who is absent and as a result his soul is protected from the various exigencies he confronts in *cosmos diabolicus*.
6. This doctrine is portrayed by the Shulammite whose ability to concentrate on the absent Shepherd gives her the ability to verbalize her devotion to the Shepherd while Solomon perceives that she is referring to himself.
7. The reference to perfume presents an analogy between the "pouch of myrrh" that lies between her breasts (in verse 13) and her fragrance of memories for the absent Shepherd.
8. Just as the presence of perfume gives off a pleasant aroma to the senses so also does the presence of the Shepherd in her soul give off a fragrance of memories.
9. The Shepherd is absent; she is in the king's quarters. The Shepherd is at work, the king is on the prowl. The Shulammite is under pressure, the absent Shepherd protects her soul.
10. This is made possible by a fragrance of memories made possible by doctrine in her soul. The Shulammite reached the doctrinal conclusion that the Shepherd is her right man and no one else will do.
11. This illustrates the believer's occupation with Christ, a reciprocal love for the Lord that is the emphasis of the Eucharist. In this ritual, the believer's spiritual growth provides an inventory of memories about his Savior that is brought to mind through the vectors of bread and wine.

**1 Corinthians 11:24** - When the Lord had given thanks He broke the bread [ **a vector for recall** ] and said, "This is My body, which is a substitute for you [ **ὅπερ *huper*, plus the ablative of substitution of the pronoun σὺ *su*** ], do this in remembrance [ **ἀνάμνησις, *anamnēsis*: to remember through an awakening of the mind** ] of Me."

**v. 25** - In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup [ **a vector for recall** ] is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance [ **ἀνάμνησις, *anamnēsis*: to remember through an awakening of the mind** ] of Me."

12. The more advanced one's spiritual growth the sweeter the fragrance of one's recall of the doctrines of Christology: the Person of our Lord symbolized by the bread, and Soteriology: His work on the cross represented by the cup.
13. The principle that emerges from both these exercises is, "You cannot remember what you do not know."
14. The capacity to remember is based on spiritual growth under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit. The more you learn and review about Christ the more facilitated the brain's memory traces become for recall.
15. The Shulammite is under pressure to recall doctrine and her occupation with her Shepherd Lover means that he is present in her soul.
16. Love for one's Savior and love for one's mate are products of memories. The ability to retain knowledge about a person, either divine or human, is made possible by the memory center in the *kardia* and its coordination with the neural pathways that are constructed in the brain.



17. There are a number of things the believer can do that damage and cripple these memories. Some are: (1) idolatry, (2) fornication, (3) adultery, (4) drugs, and (5) mental attitude sins.
18. The Bible often portrays the idolatry of the Israelites as spiritual adultery. The desire to attain a mental state of euphoria betrays over-emphasis on self combined with a frantic search for happiness.
19. True happiness is an inner resource that is developed by spiritual growth and enjoyed under the principle of fragrance of memories.
20. Drug use is a product of human viewpoint that seeks to circumvent the plan of God which demands the inculcation of His Word into the soul from which true happiness will be developed.
21. Idolatry is spiritual adultery. Fornication and adultery is submission to one's passions and desires without regard for the consequences, ramifications, and effects associated with the act.
22. We have noted from Proverbs 6:32 that extra-marital sex destroys the soul and from 1 Corinthians 6:18 that it destroys the body. We may also add to this the principle that it distorts and damages the memory.
23. The resultant scar tissue on the soul can only be removed by grace and doctrine while the illnesses contracted by the body sometimes can never be removed at all.
24. The way to develop an inventory of memories unpolluted by human viewpoint, mental attitude, verbal, and overt sins, and spiritual adultery is to remain loyal to the Right Man of your spiritual life who is the Lord Jesus Christ.
25. The same may be said of the right person of your earthly life. You do not need to think, say, or do anything that would prevent this relationship from enjoying the maximum happiness for which it was designed by God.
26. And there is nothing sweeter than the fragrance of memories that remain in the soul of those who have discovered each other as their right person and who become occupied with each other whether together or apart.
27. The perfume of verse 12 refers to a "pouch of myrrh" that the Shulammite wears around her neck and she compares its fragrance to the memories she possesses of her Shepherd Lover.
28. It is important at this point to learn a little bit about the perfumes of the ancient world:
  - 1) In the hot climate of the ancient Middle East perfumes were used widely to mask the odors of the body.
  - 2) The manufacture of perfumes was developed highly in Egypt and the various recipes included quite a number of herbs and plants:

**Tenney, Merrill C. (gen. ed.). *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), 4:698:**

The sources of perfume, incense, and ointment in the Old Testament were in the vegetable kingdom and the list of such sources (aloes, almug, balm, bdellium, calamus, cassia, cinnamon, etc.) reflects the extent of Hebrew trade and commerce. Perfume could be produced from sap, bark, flower, or root. So strong were the better kinds of ointments and so perfectly were the component substances compounded that they have been known to retain their scent for centuries. Sometimes it was produced in a powdered form (SOS 3:6). The first maker of perfume mentioned in the Bible is Bezalel 'bez' a-l'el (Exodus 37:1, 29), and the profession became highly developed in Israel as elsewhere.

- 3) The word used for perfume in our verse is נֶרֶד *nerd*:

**Harris, R. Laird, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce K. Wiltke. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), 600:**



**1420 נֶרְדִּי (*nerd*) spikenard.** This noun, occurring only three times in the Old Testament (all in Song of Solomon, verses 1:12, 4:13-14) denotes the fragrant oily essence of the North Indian *Nardostachys jatamansi*, a perennial related to valerian \va-lir' ē-an\ [a genus of perennial herbs and shrubs]. The name derives from a Sanskrit verb, *nalada* 'exhaling a scent.'

In Solomon's Song descriptions of both the king and the bride are embellished by reference to this highly regarded scent, still used in India as a perfume for the hair. Imported into the Holy Land in biblical times in sealed alabaster boxes, it was reserved for very special occasions.

- 4) When royals traveled abroad their attendants would burn these ointments creating a pillar of smoke along his path. This is noted in the quote by a sentry on the wall of Jerusalem in:

**SOS 3:6** -"What is this coming up from the wilderness like columns of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all scented powders of the merchant?"

**v. 7** - "Behold, it is the traveling couch of Solomon."

29. From this we can see that perfumes were common and used by both royals and citizens in the tenth century b.c. The Shulammite's pouch sends forth an aroma which brings to her mind reveries of her Shepherd.
30. Perfumes serve as vectors today but, because of advances in electronics, music has become even more popular. Many couples have songs that bring back memories of each other, remind them of special occasions, or speak of their personal feelings in the right man-right woman relationship.
31. The heyday for songs that spoke of romance between right man-right woman was during the late twenties through the fifties. This was the time of the Big Bands and such great lyricists as Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, and Johnny Mercer. Famous composing teams produced standards that are enjoying revival today: Sammy Cahn and James Van Heusen, Alan J. Lerner and Frederick Loewe, George and Ira Gershwin, and Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodgers. We also must include the famous three-time Oscar winner Max Steiner whose famous soundtracks include *Gone with the Wind*, *A Summer Place*, and *Casablanca*. The first two produced the two hits, "Tara's Theme" and "A Summer Place."
32. During our study we will incorporate many of these writers and composers works to amplify and illustrate the relationship between the Shulammite and the Shepherd and the Shulammite and Solomon.
33. Music becomes a vector that stimulates recall of incidences, good times, conversations, and events that bring comfort and courage to a woman when she is separated from her right man.
34. In our present context it is the perfume that does the job for the Shulammite. As it gives forth its fragrance she is reminded of the Shepherd and expresses her recall of him in the next verse:

**SOS 1:13** -[SW] "My beloved is to me a pouch of myrrh which lies all night between my breasts."