



I was tired and sat down under the shadow of a great pine in a Swedish forest and before long noticed a fragrant odor and wondered where it came from. I looked around and found by my side a tiny flower about half the size of an ordinary daisy, nearly hidden from view by the moss. It was the little "Linea blomma." How fragrant it smelled! Again and again I held it to my face enjoying the perfume and thanking God for that tiny flower...so insignificant, growing in a wild, untrodden forest, yet bringing cheer and refreshment to me. I thought, "Why is it so obscure, when it is a flower with such fragrance and surely worthy of a place in more stately grounds."

I learned a lesson by it as God spoke powerfully to my heart. I thought, "If I cannot be a pine in God's forest, I may be a tiny flower to send forth the fragrance of Jesus in this world of sadness. There is a tendency in our hearts to desire to be or to do something great. We are not content, like the tiny Linea flower, to send forth fragrance in obscurity. I have often met the Lord's people

A FRAGRANCE FOR CHRIST...



despondent over the apparent uselessness of their lives. They cannot point to some great feat accomplished for the Lord, or done anything worthy of record. It is written: "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not." (Jer. 45:5) Beloved believer, keep close to Christ, walk in happy communion with Him; let your heart drink in His love, and be *fragrant to Him*. Could you conceive of anything greater than that? *As long as we are occupied with self*, we are not occupied with Christ. True greatness is the measure in which the excellence of Christ flows from us.

When down here, He was not great as men count greatness. His was a life of obscurity, choosing no place of prominence. When by force they would make Him King, He retired. Those who were far from God could smell the holy perfume and say: "Never man spake like this man." None could come into His presence without smelling the fragrant odors of love, compassion and tenderness. Let us then not become despondent over *what we are* and *what we are not*. Let our attention be more than ever directed to Him. As His sweetness fills our soul, so will His fragrance flow forth from us as the outcome of communion with Him—a reflection of the only perfect, fragrant one—Jesus!

--J. H. L.

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