

**BREW IT!**

God is your ultimate best friend! Make it your top priority to spend time with him, read the letter he wrote you, and strive to get as much of him as you can. He wants that.

POUR IT!

Drink in the flavor from the following Scriptures: James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:2-4.

SAVOR IT!

Tell God you want to be saturated with him!

TOO MUCH?

I was excited! I'd heard that Starbucks had created a new drink and was going to test-market it in a few select cities. And my city, Colorado Springs, Colorado, had been chosen! I'm not a coffee drinker. Never have been. I love the smell, but I've never been able to enjoy the taste. I just can't make myself like it.

So when I go to Starbucks with friends, I grab a hot chocolate or a caramel apple cider. But word was out! It had been advertised that Starbucks had created a brand-new drink for chocolate lovers: Chocofina! I couldn't wait to try it. An entire cup of exquisite solid chocolate literally melted into liquid. What could be better?

I stood in line, waited my turn, and placed my order. After letting my drink cool a bit, I anxiously lifted it to my lips and let the gooey brown liquid slide down my throat. *Wow! This is unbelievable*, I thought. I quickly took two more sips.

Then I took the cup—still filled with Chocofina—and tossed it in the trash. What happened?

It was too much chocolate! It was too rich. Too sweet. Too sugary. Too chocolaty! Even though I hadn't even consumed half the drink, I couldn't take any more. I absolutely love chocolate, but this was just too much of it.

Fortunately, you'll never get too much of God. But why not go ahead and try? As you seek to get as much of God as you possibly can, you'll deepen your intimacy with him (as we talked about on February 1). Make it your goal to get so much of God that you gasp in wonder.

It happened with Moses. When God appeared to him in the form of a burning bush, Moses couldn't even look up. And when he came off the mountain to join the children of Israel, his face was blazing with glory—God's glory.

Can you imagine getting that much of God? Make it your goal. Strive to get as much of God as you possibly can. The Bible assures us that as we draw close to him, he'll draw close to us. That's quite a promise. Grab it and get in his presence!

How does one grow close to God? you may be thinking. Well, how do you grow close to anyone? Think about a close friend. You spend time with him. You talk with him. You share your heart. You enjoy being together. And the more time you spend together, the deeper your friendship grows.

SCRAMBLED EGGS SHUT DOWN HIGHWAY

If you've visited Houston, you may be familiar with the Interstate 610 loop. But you may not be familiar with the accident that closed the highway one day. It happened like this: A truck carrying thirty thousand pounds of eggs spilled the entire load, shutting down the highway for several hours and leaving a smelly mess for cleanup crews.

Police suspect the truck's driver may have fallen asleep. He crashed his 18-wheeler into some plastic barrels along the interstate. As the trailer went up onto the rails of the overpass, the eggs were sent tumbling onto an unoccupied transportation department truck below.

Other than breaking his nose and losing thirty thousand pounds of eggs, the driver suffered no major injuries. Environmental workers spent fourteen hours cleaning up the mess while trying not to slip on egg yolks as they worked. They used a special substance to fight the smell and soak up the fuel.

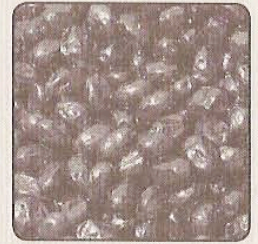
It's hard to imagine exactly how smelly thirty thousand pounds of dumped eggs would be. But obviously, it's not a mess many people would be drawn to.

Our sense of smell is important. We don't have to taste milk to know it's sour. We can tell it's bad simply by its smell. And fortunately, we can smell escaping gas in our home in time to do something about it. If not, the gas could kill us.

Not only do we possess the sense of smell, we also have a smell about us. In other words, we carry a scent. Dogs know the scent of their owners. I have a 150-pound Saint Bernard, and even if I blindfolded him and approached him from behind, he'd still know it was me, because he knows my scent.

What kind of scent does your lifestyle carry? Through your actions, do you carry a scent of kindness and a gentle spirit? Does your character reflect a scent of honesty and integrity? Do you have a reputation that smells of high morals and standards?

The apostle Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians that Christians have a sweet, wholesome fragrance. He says that's the "smell" of Christ within us. To unbelievers, we're a scent of death, but to other Christians, we're an exquisite perfume. Unbelievers sense the smell of death from us because unless they place their trust in Christ, they'll spend eternity in hell. But other Christians sense the eternal, sweet smell of their forever home in heaven through our lifestyle.

**BREW IT!**

Your scent (your lifestyle, your actions, your reputation) can be a powerful witness. Are you giving off a positive, Christlike scent, or by your scent are you conveying a damaging, negative witness?

POUR IT!

Drink in the flavor from the following Scriptures: Psalm 90:12; 112:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

SAVOR IT!

Ask God to help you live so closely to him that you give off his holy scent.