

Psalm 45

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This is a wedding song that was played at the marriage ceremony of an Israeli king and his foreign bride, most likely King Solomon's wedding to an Egyptian Princess (1 Kings 3:1). In addition, this wedding song is also Messianic in nature, depicting the royal wedding between our Messiah-Groom King Jesus, and His bride, the church.

The Bridegroom, Jesus, is clothed in all His majesty and splendor, wearing regal robes and standing ready for the big day. His bride is dressed in a gown of fine linen, bright and clean, and she waits in her chambers for the processional to begin. Can you hear the Bridal march?

Details, Details, Details

Planning a wedding is quite an undertaking. Traditionally, the wedding details are the responsibility of the bride, and she is eager to get busy. She may call a wedding planner to help with all the decisions she has to make. She scurries from here to there choosing the caterer, venue, date, and dress. Such details can tire a bride out, leaving her with little time, energy, or emotion to enjoy preparing herself for the wedding. How wonderfully relaxing would it be if a bride's only responsibility would be to prepare *herself* to walk down the aisle and to her eagerly await her groom?

Fellow brides in Christ, we can relax! Everything has been taken care of. A gown has been uniquely designed for you, perfectly fit for your style and body type. And there is no need to be concerned about the reception. Our Groom has a culinary delights planned for that day, and it includes all our favorites. Yes, our Groom has covered every detail, every detail except one.

Read Mark 13:32.

What detail is unknown to our Groom? Who knows this information?

Read Revelation 19:6.

How does the bride come to the ceremony?

Getting Ready

Since the wedding date is known only to our Groom's Father, the bride must be ready at all times. Indeed, our only responsibility as Jesus' bride is to make ourselves ready for the big day.

It is essential to get to know our Groom by spending time with Him, making every effort to know what pleases Him, and discovering His likes and dislikes. He loves good conversation and fellowship.

Another way for the bride to get to know her Groom is to read His book. He is the author of the number one best-selling book of all times. This book gives real insight to His character, His likes and dislikes, even what He is looking for in His bride.

Read 1 Peter 1:16-17.

What has our Groom called His bride, each of us, to be?

Yes, our Groom has called His bride to be holy. I am not sure how you feel when you hear the word *holy*, but for me, the word *unworthy* comes to my mind. Suddenly I see my sins begin to walk across the stage of my mind like a silent black-and-white feature film, reminding me of all the reasons I cannot be holy.

But we have to remember that holiness is more about the devotion *of* my life than the perfection—or lack thereof—*in* my life. Scripture tells us we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Falling short of the glory of God, however, still does not disqualify us from holiness. We are created to be holy.

Read Genesis 1:27.

Who are we created to be like?

Holiness is our family-of-God heritage. Since we are created to be holy, then how do we get over the feeling of being disqualified, and get on with being holy? The first step is to remember that we are qualified by our family-of-God heritage. It's in our DNA, so to speak. Our next step is found in the Old Testament.

Read Leviticus 20:7-8.

What does God ask His children to do?

When we obey, what does God do?

Holiness begins with obedience. When we obey, He makes us holy. Transformation begins to happen when obedience becomes our natural response to God. But it takes time for obedience to take root in our heart. We mustn't get discouraged with our progress, but instead, we should remember that holiness is more about the devotion *of* my life than the perfection *in* my life.

Read Philippians 1:6.

How can we remain confident in our walk with God as we pursue holiness?

As we become holy, we will be able to stand worthy to receive our reward for our obedience and faithfulness, reflecting our Father's flawless image and dressed in our fine, linen wedding gown on our "wedding day with Christ. I wonder if Heaven's angels will be singing Psalm 45 then, and if we will hear them enunciate, "the king is enthralled by your beauty." If so, every act of obedience is worth hearing those words!