

righteousness. He was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Did you know that there is genuine joy in trusting and in doing? Paul said, "Now the God of hope fill you with all peace and joy in believing." And it was David who sang the song of praise, "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." There is no measure sufficient for the joy He gives when we obey and serve Him. We can "be glad and rejoice in his mercy, for he has set our feet in a large room."

MAKING EVERY DAY COUNT FOR CHRIST

Can we really make every day count for Christ? Can we fulfill His commands? Paul gave us the answer in the four chapters of *Philippians*.

Philippians 1:20, 21. This is daily surrender. Self is crucified, and to live is Christ. The Lord Jesus is magnified in our bodies.

Philippians 2:5. "Let this mind [submission] be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." The fulfillment of this command is possible only as we present our bodies a living sacrifice to be transformed by Christ.

Philippians 3:13, 14. We "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Called unto holiness and honor, we are sanctified for the Master's use.

Philippians 4:13. Sustained by Christ, we can face each day with confidence and expectancy.

Let us renew our faith and strength each morning in the Word of God. Let us ask for wisdom and guidance each morning in the place of prayer. Then let us trust the Lord for every responsibility through the day. At the close of the day we will then be able to say, "This was the day the Lord made; He enabled me to rejoice and be glad in it. He helped me win someone to Him and bear fruit for Him."

THIS MAY BE THE DAY

Do you ever awaken in the morning with the thought, "This may be the day when our wonderful Lord will return for His bride"? What joy to be "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ!" No other event could bring such joy and anticipation to the heart of a Christian. How can we help but "rejoice and be glad in it"?

—Brethren Missionary Herald

The Bridegroom's Dress

By MAXINE WILLIAMS

MARCOS AND MARTA, students in the Costa Rican Bible Institute, were to be married at the end of the semester.

"I have to go shopping," my missionary friend said. "Marcos has given me one hundred *colones* to buy Marta's dress."

"*Marcos* is paying for it?" I exclaimed. "Why is he buying it? And how can he afford to spend that much?" I well knew the meager pittance on which those rural pastors lived.

"Oh, that's the custom here," she replied. "The bridegroom always buys the dress and pays for the wedding. When the bride comes down the aisle, her finery tells everyone there how much he thinks of her; so he always buys the best he can possibly afford, even though it may not be much."

But I hardly heard more, for the Holy Spirit had illumined my heart. I have since learned that this is the custom in some Oriental countries and it was the custom in Bible lands in the time of Christ. In this country, where the bride and her family provide everything for the wedding, we miss the significance of the wedding dress.

The bridegroom buys the dress! Our Heavenly Bridegroom has purchased a wondrous robe of righteousness for us. What a price He paid! How much He loves us! He was equal with God but He laid aside that glory to buy it. He paid the price of rejection by man and of being forsaken of His father and of ignominious death on the cross for it. Any dress we could provide would be rags (*Isaiah* 64:6), but now His righteousness clothes us.

How much we should cherish that wedding garment! What bride would come to her waiting bridegroom in wrinkled, spotted clothes? He will present us to Himself without spot or wrinkle (*Ephesians* 5:27).

How the Bridegroom longs for the Bride! As we come to Him in the garment He so dearly bought, the onlooking world can see what we mean to Him. "See!" says the Bridegroom's dress. "See My beloved! You can see how much I love her! See what she means to Me! The price was not too much, for she is greatly beloved. Just see My beloved in her fine linen of My righteousness!"

As the bride comes down the aisle, the people see her and her dazzling dress, but she has eyes only for the bridegroom. She comes to him, assured of his love, rejoicing that at long last they are to be together.

"Let us rejoice—and shout for joy—exulting and triumphant! Let us celebrate and ascribe to Him glory and honor, for the marriage of the Lamb [at last] has come and His bride has prepared herself. She has been permitted to dress in fine (radiant) linen—dazzling and white, for the fine linen is (signifies, represents) the righteousness—the upright, just and godly living [deeds, conduct] and right standing with God—of the saints (God's holy people)" (*Revelation* 19:7, 8, Amplified).