

## The Bridal Gown

It was all worth it!

We spent weeks planning and organizing our wedding. I never imagined that there was so much to prepare! But I had nothing to do with the bride's dress. They would not even allow me to see it – it's tradition, they said.

On the day of our wedding, I did not have much to do but wait, wait and wait! That morning, I was not even permitted to have breakfast with Joanne. To kill the time, I ended up cleaning the house and washing the clothes (three loads!) -- complete with ironing.

Finally it was time; the waiting was over. Joanne walked the aisle dressed in a beautiful white dress. Words cannot express the joy I felt at that magical moment.

Joanne and I enjoyed every minute of our wedding; we shall cherish the memories as long as we live. Sincere thanks to you who prayed for us and sent your good wishes.

We have another wedding coming up – far more glorious and wonderful. I hope and pray that all the readers of this letter will be present for that wedding feast, the marriage supper of Jesus Christ and his bride, the church. "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"

Jesus loves his church. Though we were sinners, he came down from heaven, and at the appointed time, Jesus gave himself on the cross to cleanse and redeem his bride for himself.

For a while, Jesus left his bride here on earth, far away from home and his comforting presence. He did so for a good purpose however; he gives us opportunity to prepare for our wedding day (Revelations 19:6-8):

"Hallelujah!  
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!  
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.  
Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear."  
Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.

Now is the opportune time for us who call on the name of the Lord to make ourselves ready. We need to get busy preparing our wedding dress, made up of fine linen, which the Scripture tells us, is our good works. Now is the time to be gentle and kind to one another, especially to our loved ones and Christian brethren; to fulfill our responsibilities with diligence and care; to be charitable and help those in need; to pray, read the Bible, attend church; to be patient and forgive each other. These righteous acts are our wedding dress.

We might have to wait a while before our Husband comes for us. Let's put on a beautiful wedding dress so that when he beholds us in glory, he will smile with joy. It will be worth it!