



UPPER ROOM
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

“That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no *spot* or *wrinkle* or any such thing; but that she would be *holy* and *blameless*.” (Ephesians 5:27)

In the Light of the Cross

Volume 15, Episode XI

November 2014



Revelation 19:7

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

PRAYER:

- ◆ For God’s **EM-POWERMENT** during the Mission Trip to Europe.
- ◆ For a **TRUE REVIVAL** in all local churches.
- ◆ For an authentic **HUNGER** for **INTIMACY** with the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ For a **GENUINE** interest in **DISCIPLESHIP**.
- ◆ For God’s **BLESSINGS** upon students of **CLASS ADT 2014**.
- ◆ For **NEW STUDENTS**/disciples to enroll into the ADT program.
- ◆ For spiritual **DISCERNMENT**.

Revelation 19:8

“It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

A Church without SPOT or WRINKLE

Motto:

“Listen, O daughter, give attention and incline your ear: Forget your people and your father’s house; Then the King will desire your beauty. Because He is your Lord, bow down to Him” (Psalm 45:10-11)

Some time ago I had my mornings devotions inspired from the Book of Genesis. I asked God to bless me with a fresh *rhema* from His Word, and He did. One morning I was overwhelmed by God’s Word regarding the coming of the Lord for His Bride. My heart was leaping with JOY! The Groom, the Lord of Lords, is coming SOON for His Beautiful Bride (See **Gen. 24:65**, **Rev. 22:7**). Are you READY?

Let me share some of the details I got that particular morning as I was spending time in the Scriptures.

We all are familiar with the beautiful story of Isaac and Rebekah from Genesis 24. To me this story is a prophetic one. In my opinion, beyond the exegesis of this text, there is a message for the Church of our times.

When I read **Gen. 24:65**, “*Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?*” my eyes become watery and my heart leaps with joy. Then my mind traveled over all 66 books of the Bible to the last chapter of Revelation: “*And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book*” (**Rev. 22:7**).

Church, listen up! **Our Groom is ready to come.**

The question is: **Are we READY?** The ‘ball’, so to speak, is in the court of the Church. We are the ones who, according to **2 Peter 3:12**, are “*hastening the coming of the day of God.*” I am firmly convinced NOW, more than I was 37 years ago when I started preaching the Gospel of Jesus that we are living in the last of the last days. Very soon Jesus is going to marry a Beautiful Bride – *Mature and Holy*.

Keep us in your prayers as we labor in Europe in a Mission: Oct. 28 — Nov. 18, 2014

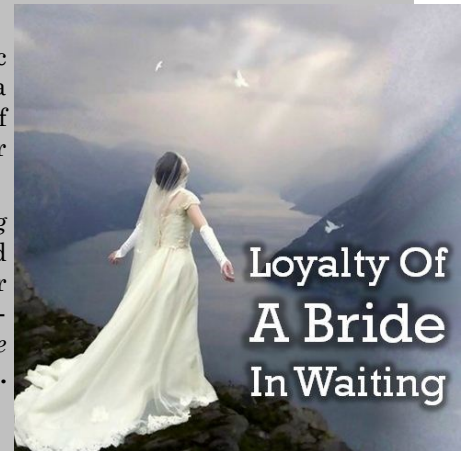
With that being said, please be warned and assured that Christ is not going to marry a kindergarten girl playing with her dolls in a miniature-plastic-castle. He is not coming for an adolescent girl either or for a spoiled young woman who revolves around her own universe with a ‘*me-myself-and-I*’ type of attitude.

Jesus is coming for “*the church in all her glory*” who has developed and matured into the likeness of Christ’s character with “*no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless*” (**Eph. 5:25-27**).

When I got to the passage from Ephesians chapter five I was curious to understand Paul’s terminology. Here they are:

SPOT, as defined by Merriam-Webster, is a ‘*taint on character or repu-*

“... behold, I am coming quickly...” (Rev. 22:20)



tation'. The church is not immune to being stained by this world. "Spot" has to do with stains from this world. The world, through "the lust of the flesh", "the lust of the eyes", and through "the boastful pride of life" (1 John 2:16) continues to have the capacity to stain our clothes of righteousness we received from God. That is why James admonishes us "to keep oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27). We are, as believers, supposed to keep ourselves unstained by the world? That is a good question, isn't it? Here are at least three directives we are supposed to follow:



- (i) We are admonished not to love the world nor the things of the world (1 John 2:15, James 4:4).
- (ii) We are urged not to get entangled by the defilements of the world (2 Peter 2:20).
- (iii) The Bible teaches not to be conformed to this world but instead be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

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WRINKLE, according to Merriam-Webster, means "a small ridge – imperfection or irregularity – a crease in the skin especially due to age, worry, or fatigue". "Wrinkle" has to do both, with the "clothes" of righteousness and with the "skin" of transformed character. In Revelation 19:17, John is very specific when he writes that the Bride got ready to meet the Groom. "It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints" (Rev. 19:8). The righteous acts of the saints have nothing to do with salvation. We are saved by grace alone (Eph. 2:8) in Christ alone (Acts 4:12) NOT by our good deeds (Eph. 2:9). The fact that the Bride clothed herself in "fine linen, bright and clean" speaks to the completion of her sanctification process. And as you very well know – the spiritual growth and maturity of the Church – does not happen by chance. It is an intentional process. As is

the case for our salvation – we are NOT automatically saved. We have to willingly and by faith (Rom. 10:9-10), participate with God's plan. So it is also true for our spiritual transformation (2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 12:1) – with unveiled faces – we have to present ourselves to God for the process of sanctification of our souls in order to receive the glorification of our bodies.

That being said, I believe that in our times the Holy Spirit is going to intensify the process of spiritual transformation of the Church so She will be ready for the return of the Groom. God promised this for the

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Church and He will keep His word. "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thess. 5:23-24). Paul assures us that "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). Therefore, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7).

In CONCLUSION – say with me today: "Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

With love in Christ's service,

Valy Vadhva

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urfm.org/

P.S.: Thank you for your continuous prayers and financial support!!!

"The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him" (Galatians 6:6).

If you are looking for *personal spiritual life coaching sessions* or if you desire to have a *personalized mentorship plan* designed for your *spiritual growth* please contact me immediately. Thanks!!!

<His bride has made herself ready>

