

H I S P R I N C E S S TM



My Prince Will Come

GETTING READY FOR MY LORD'S RETURN

Sheri Rose SHEPHERD

“Sheri Rose Shepherd reminds us that pride, guilt, procrastination, greed, and other sins of the flesh keep us from living out our purpose—but true crowning moments occur when we fix our eyes on eternity. Her message will challenge readers to prepare to meet the Prince of Peace by focusing on the things that matter most.”

JAMES AND BETTY ROBISON
LIFE OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

“This a timely, timeless, and empowering word for all princesses in waiting. Jesus is truly coming back for a Bride, and we are admonished to make ourselves ready. *My Prince Will Come* is just such an adornment for the daughters. It will cover shame with beauty, hopelessness with vision, and restore strength to every weak and broken place. Let the beauty of this book wash over you.”

LISA BEVERE
SPEAKER AND BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
KISSED THE GIRLS AND MADE THEM CRY



Sheri Rose SHEPHERD



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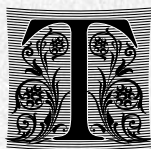
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Our Prince Will Come...

*And I...saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,
coming down from God out of heaven.*

It was a glorious sight, beautiful as a bride at her wedding.

REVELATION 21:2, TLB



he bride-to-be stood motionless, staring in the mirror for what seemed like an eternity. She had worked hard to prepare for this moment. Her hair and makeup were works of art, and her dress was stunning. Never before had she felt so perfectly beautiful. But something was *still* missing. Something had gone terribly wrong.

Where were her bridesmaids? Where were her guests? Had she not made it clear to everyone that this day was coming? The most glorious day of all time? She glanced over at the open guest book beside her—blank. The gift

table—empty...except for a stack of unopened letters. Were those the wedding invitations she should have sent out? No, they couldn't be. She was sure she had mailed them weeks ago and crossed that item off her list.

The bride fumbled through the pile. Every letter was addressed to her, and each had been sent from the same person—her Betrothed. Of course she recognized His handwriting. She had read His letters before—long ago—but life had kept her so busy that there really hadn't been any time to read His letters. *There will be plenty of time to get to know my husband after the wedding*, she had thought.

The bride sifted through the pile, looking for something without really knowing what. Tears of disappointment blurred her vision, but she stopped at a particular letter. Her eyes brightened as she read the familiar phrase her Prince had written on the envelope: *"I can't wait to see you, My dearest princess! I love you!"* A sense of eagerness overcame her, and she began to open the envelope. But just then she heard the sound of the most beautiful music she had ever heard. The wedding march had begun! She dropped the letter and ran toward the large double doors that opened into the sanctuary. She could fill the sweet presence of her Prince in the empty hall. Where were her friends? Her family? Hadn't they gotten their invitations? Maybe they were too busy to come? She wrestled with these unanswered questions as

she slowly walked down the aisle of the large and gloriously decorated sanctuary. Her eyes danced about as she absorbed the indescribable beauty of her surroundings. Then, suddenly, everything around her seemed to blur as she caught sight of Him.

He looked so tender and loving standing there at the end of the aisle, patiently waiting for His bride to approach. There were no bridesmaids or groomsmen, only her Groom and what appeared to be stacks and stacks of wedding presents. She had heard that her Prince had prepared many gifts for His bride, but this was truly overwhelming.

She always knew her emotions would run wild on her wedding day, but nothing had prepared her for the intense flood that filled and overflowed her heart. As she approached her Groom—her Prince—she felt her heart race and her face flush with shame and embarrassment. It hit her suddenly like a stabbing jolt of reality: He had done everything to prepare this day for her. He had done everything to woo her, to bless her, to capture her heart, to rescue her... and she had done nothing! She had nothing to offer Him. No gifts. No guests. She had labored and sweated over all the wrong things and for all the wrong reasons. The depth of her shame was so intense that she grabbed the hem of her gown and turned, ready to run away. It was then that her eyes met His.

There she saw something in His gaze that was more intense than her shame, more powerful than her guilt. That “something” was greater than anything she had ever felt before. She turned back toward Him and slowly continued down the aisle. Then it happened. Not all at once, but gradually. As she walked... as she approached her Prince... as she stared into His tender eyes... her shame began to melt away. Closer. Closer still. Now she could see it: The look on His face was one of pure love, the kind of love that says, “You are Mine, My princess, and nothing can keep us apart.”

As the bride-to-be stepped up to stand next to her Groom, every negative emotion loosed its grip on her and departed forever. Every pain that had burrowed its way into her soul disappeared for good. The Prince extended His hand and took hers. As they stood there face-to-face, she realized that her life was finally complete and her joy more full than she had ever dreamed possible. The Prince smiled and gently wiped away the tears from her cheek. He then embraced His new bride and said, “You will never cry again, My love. Welcome home.”

If you know Jesus as your Savior, then He is your Prince, you are His princess, and this story is about your glorious day. However, the end of this story and the fruits of that day are, to some degree, up to you, His bride-to-be. By God’s grace, will you be ready to meet Him face-to-face

on that majestic day of His return? Are you ready for your Prince? Does the way you live your life today reflect that you are His? Do you need to take the time to fall in love once again with the One who gave His life for you? Are you ready to discover your “happily ever after”? Do you need Him to reveal Himself to you in a very real and personal way? Is it your heart’s desire to live a passionate, Christ-centered life? Do you need Him to set you free to live in the complete freedom He has already won for you?

If your answer to any or all of the above questions is yes, then I invite you to take a seat and read about the greatest love story ever told—written for *you*—and discover how you can prepare yourself for your Prince!

Love,

Your sister princess in Christ,


Sheri Rose

*“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no mind has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love Him.”*

I CORINTHIANS 2:9, NLT

The Crowning Moment

TAKING YOUR ROYAL POSITION

 he lights were shining brightly in my eyes. My heart was racing as I stood there staring out at an audience of strangers who were anxiously watching to see who would win the crown. Among those two thousand strangers in the audience were my precious family members and friends who knew how much God had enabled me to overcome in my life and what a miracle my standing on that stage was.

As I waited for the big announcement, I began to think, *Is this really what I need and want—to win a worldly crown?* As the envelope that held the winner's name was passed to the master of ceremonies, I glanced at the panel of judges. *Am I placing my sense of worth in the hands of these people's evaluation*

of me? Then my eyes moved to the other women competing for the same crown. Each of them must have a story to tell and something to share with the world if she should be crowned. Somehow it did not seem right that only one of us would be chosen. Each of us longed to have that crown placed on our heads, something symbolic to make us special. At last, the crowning moment arrived.

The countdown began with the fourth runner-up. My stomach was in knots as the master of ceremonies slowly announced the judges' decisions. Each of us left standing on stage after a runner-up was named felt a trembling hope of winning and an impossible-to-ignore fear of rejection.

Then it happened—my crowning moment, the moment of affirmation I had dreamed about most of my life! The master of ceremonies called my name as the 1994 Mrs. United States of America. Overwhelmed with joy, I cried as that worldly crown was placed on my head and the crystal-beaded banner was hung over my shoulder. Cameras flashed, people applauded, and women gathered around me to celebrate my victory. It was one of those moments in life that words could never truly describe.

But when the cameras stopped flashing, the audience emptied out of the auditorium, and the celebration came to an end, I walked back to my hotel room. I took off the crown and laid it on the table by the window. I turned off

the lights and noticed that the crystal crown sparkled with the reflection of the full moon and the bright Las Vegas lights.

As I stared at the beautiful crown that I had so longed for, I began to think about my Lord. I remembered the night when, in my darkest hour, He had crowned me with His tender love and mercy. It had happened ten years earlier in a different hotel room. I had felt hopeless and desperate for someone or something to fill my empty soul.

At that time in my life, I had all the things that should have meant happiness and fulfillment. I was no longer addicted to drugs, I had lost sixty pounds, and I owned my own business. I had money, success, beauty titles, boyfriends, nice clothes, and people's approval for all I had overcome. I drove a nice car and had a calendar full of appointments for places to go and people to see. Yet I still cried myself to sleep at night and battled depression as well as an eating disorder called bulimia. On the outside I looked like I had it all together, but on the inside I was falling apart. I felt empty and alone even when I was in a crowd of people. I could not find anything or anyone to fill that deep lonely place in my heart. I wanted to die.

Feeling as if I had nothing to live for and deciding that I could not go on any longer, I checked into a hotel room. My plan was to end my life with an overdose of sleeping

pills. Yet at that moment, my most desperate moment, I cried out to God. He was my last hope—He heard my cry and rescued me before I took my life. At that moment in the hotel room, I actually felt God's holy presence with me, and for the first time in my life, I did not feel alone. Instead I felt loved and at peace.

Our God promises that if we will seek Him with all our heart, we *will* find Him. I discovered the truth of that promise. When I called out to God that night, He gave me the greatest crown of all. It was not a crown bestowed by man, but the crown of life—of everlasting life—bestowed by God. He restored my soul and gave me everything that I had been desperately searching for: love, joy, peace of mind, a purpose for living. I can honestly say that, as exciting as winning a national crown was, that amazing event pales in comparison to the night the King welcomed me into His family as His much-loved daughter.

- ⇒ *Weight loss* could only change my body; it could *not* change my life.
- ⇒ *Money* could only buy me things; it could *not* buy me peace of mind.
- ⇒ *Success* could win me people's praises, but it could *not* heal my heart.

If Jesus is your Savior, then you have been appointed as a daughter of the King of kings. You have an amazing crown...the crown of everlasting life. You wear the most important banner of all...the banner of His name. And you may be the only Jesus some people will ever see. Yes, you have a royal responsibility to honor your King by living for Him. You have power inside of you—the King's very Spirit—to do great things for the eternal kingdom, but...



*What good is being a princess if we never assume
our position of royalty in this life?*

I believe if the Lord were going to personalize John 15:16 in a love letter to you, His love note might read like this...

HIS PRINCESS LOVE LETTER

My princess,

I chose you before the foundation of the earth to be My princess. You are royalty even though at times you don't feel like a princess. I will wait for you until you are ready to start living out the amazing plans that I have for you. I know that you don't know where to begin or how to live as the princess I've called you to be, so let Me teach you day by day.

Start by recognizing who I am: King of kings, Lord of lords, and the Lover of your soul. When the two of us begin to meet alone together every day, I will show you how to live as My chosen princess. But remember, My child, just as I have chosen you, I have given you a choice about whether or not to represent Me to the world. If you are willing, I am here to give you all you need to fulfill that royal calling.

Love,

Your King who has chosen you

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—
fruit that will last.
Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

JOHN 15:16, NIV

TRUE CROWNING MOMENTS

True crowning moments in life are not those that highlight what we have accomplished for ourselves. If you think about it, once we're gone, no one will remember us for what we wore, how much we weighed, what house we lived in, or what title we held while we were here. True crowning moments in life are those that point people to our King, not ourselves.

Life has taught me this: It is...

- ☞ our character, *not* our appearance
- ☞ our choices, *not* our possessions
- ☞ our courage, *not* our comfort
- ☞ our compassion, *not* our successes

...that really matter in this life. These attributes prove we are His princess. These are the jewels that people we know and our loved ones will truly treasure when we're gone.

HIS PRINCESS IN ACTION

I had the privilege of knowing a real king's princess. Her name was Rachael, and when she was thirteen, doctors told

her that cancer would take her life within eight weeks. When I called to pray with her, she said, “Would you pray that, before I die, I can share Jesus with my entire high school?” So that’s what I prayed and when we got off the phone, I cried. Rachael’s dying wish, her heart’s desire, was not for herself, but for others. She cared more about the eternal lives of others than her own earthly life coming to an end. Rachael had an eternal perspective on life, and she was committed to representing her King and sharing His truth—despite her circumstances.

The doctors gave Rachael eight weeks, but God gave Rachael three years to live out her purpose and represent Him on her high school campus. On her sixteenth birthday, she announced, “I am ready to go home to be with the Lord. I have finished what He sent me here to do.” Rachael’s cancer had given her a unique and hard-to-ignore voice on her school campus. Her teachers and fellow students could not understand why this dying girl cared more about their eternal lives than her own physical life. There is never a greater time to shine for our King than when circumstances seem hopeless from a human perspective.

As the end of her life on this earth drew near, Rachael made an important request of her high school principal. She asked if the entire student body could attend her funeral, and God granted her favor with him. Her principal

made buses available during school hours for anyone who wanted to attend Rachael's memorial service. I had the honor of being there, and the church was completely packed. I rejoiced as busloads of teens with a wide range of backgrounds got off those buses and entered that church. I realized that God had answered Rachael's prayer: She did get to share Jesus with her entire high school, and this letter that her pastor read was key.

Dear friends,

Please do not be sad for me today, for I am in a place where there is no more sickness, no more death, and no more tears. I am in heaven, and my prayer for you is that I will see you someday in heaven. My Savior Jesus Christ has made a way for you to get here... Love, Rachael

When the pastor finished reading Rachael's letter, he invited people to come forward and ask Jesus into their hearts. Hundreds of high school students walked down the aisles to the front of the church, kneeled by Rachael's casket, and received the crown of life. The truth is that death is not the end for the Lord's princesses, and Rachael lived out that truth as her high school watched. Truly, our God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than all we would ever dare to ask, hope, or dream—and that is what He did

in Rachael's life. One of God's precious princesses had cancer, and she led hundreds of people to her King. I wonder how many of those students went home and told their parents about Jesus. I wonder how many will grow up and become spiritual leaders in their homes or perhaps even pastors, teachers, or evangelists.

Take a moment to ask yourself this...

- ⇒ What will I be remembered for when I am gone?
- ⇒ What have I contributed to the lives of those I love?
- ⇒ For what do I want to be remembered?



*The way we live today determines the legacy
we will leave behind us.*

If you are a Christian but have never specifically asked God to use you to further His kingdom, I want to encourage you to stop and pray this prayer...

His Princess Prayer

Lord,

Your Word tells me not to hide the eternal light You have placed in me. I'm sorry for the times I've done just that. But starting this moment I want others to know the hope You have given me. I want to have boldness to burn brightly for You in this dark world. Please help me not to hide any longer behind my fear of what others will think. Let my life reflect to the world that I am Yours. Teach me through Your Word how to live as Your daughter. I am ready to represent You.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



OUR KING TAKES US FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY

Queen Esther was no different from you and me. She did not come from a royal bloodline, yet she is one of the greatest women in Bible history.

It was not a worldly crown that gave Esther the favor she enjoyed with King Xerxes or the power to save her people. It was her character, her courage, and her love for God that enabled her to do something great for His kingdom. She had such compassion for her people and such a passion for her calling that she willingly risked her life by standing before the king and speaking up for what was right and just. Esther's heart won her the king's respect and his willingness to listen to her, and her courage and love for others changed history.

If, like Esther, we choose to live for an audience of One—for the One who really loves us—then such crowning moments can come daily. Esther fulfilled her royal calling, and we can too. We serve the same King she did, the same King who gave Queen Esther all she needed to live out her purpose. But we cannot live as the Lord's princess in our own strength. We have to pray for our King to crown us—as He crowned Esther—with...

- ⇒ COMPASSION for others.
- ⇒ COURAGE to stand up for righteousness.
- ⇒ CONVICTION to live for Christ.
- ⇒ CHARACTER that reflects Jesus is in our hearts.
- ⇒ COMMITMENT to His call on our life.

*The LORD answered, "I can do anything!
Watch and you'll see my words come true."*

NUMBERS 11:23, CEV

We will receive whatever we ask for that is according to God's will, and it is His will that these virtues become part of who we are. Our King knows how to give His Princesses the ultimate makeover; He has the *real* irresistible beauty tips. If you ask, He will give you. . .

A Beautiful Heart... That Is Full of His Love and Free to Love Others

There is nothing more beautiful than a woman who loves the Lord with all her heart and is free to give love to others. One seventy-year-old missionary who loved the Lord with all her heart caused me to thirst for God's love. To me she is more beautiful than any model on a magazine cover because God's love reflected through her eyes is something even the best makeup artist could never re-create. Pure, unselfish love can only happen in the power of the Holy Spirit working through us. If we will allow our King's love to accumulate deep within our souls and accept His forgiveness, we will master the art of loving others.

*That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
and that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is
the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,
that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

EPHESIANS 3:17–19, NASB

A Beautiful Mind... That Is Focused on Your Purpose

This world clouds our minds with everything but divine purpose. Almost everything we watch and read causes total confusion. Look around you—people are lost, searching for anything that makes some sense. Sadly, they are willing to do anything that imitates peace. When we are regularly spending time in the Word and prayed up, our King clears away all the confusion this world brings. He helps us live with peace in our hearts and a purpose for living beyond today. We don't have to wander around aimlessly in quest of the meaning of life. We have all we need because we belong to the King and He lavishes all the gifts of the Spirit on His beloved daughters. The richest, most famous people in the world would trade it all for what you have—the God-given power, purpose, and peace of mind you were blessed to receive on that day you met the King and became His princess.



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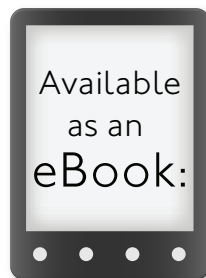
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