

## Welcome to The Feast - Part 3

*"Rise up, Rise Up .Rise up O Church! Rise up, Rise up, Rise up O church!*

*Come and take your place with the King in his beauty*

*Come and take your place by the King on your throne" (Song of Ascending)*

Perhaps the strongest of our current prophetic themes is for us to recognise our identity and authority as God's sons and to express this together as the Bride of Christ. This goes beyond natural gender, as supernaturally women are God's sons and men are part of the Church as the Bride.

This is the right time for the church to see herself as she truly is and to use her Royal authority to overcome the work of the enemy and release the active spirit of the Kingdom -compassionate love , power, right thinking, peace and well-being and restored connection with God and community, including care for creation.

This move of God is being attacked by the enemy who wants to usurp authority—even using a virus which has been given by scientists a name meaning the crown. God ,who is sovereign, will use this to establish, not destroy the church and to fulfil his purposes for all people.

**Still your heart and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

At the weekend away, Samantha read verses from **The Wedding song- Psalm 45.**

*"My heart is on fire, boiling over with passion. Bubbling up within me are these beautiful lyrics ... my tongue is the pen of an inspired writer. Like a river overflowing its banks, I'm overflowing with words..." (verse 1)*

**Devotion to Jesus ignites the Holy Spirit within us. The fruit and gifts overflow from us without embarrassment or apology. It is a time for writing and singing songs, prophesying to impart courage, healing, discerning, using wisdom to administrate for the common good, serving , caring, giving, facilitating miracles,( including on line technology to form community!) telling the story of Jesus and how he is changing lives.**

*"Jesus, Royal Majesty, Mighty warrior. You are full of beauty and splendour as you go out to war! In your glory and grandeur go forth in victory!*

*Through your faithfulness and meekness, truth and justice will stand.*

*Awe inspiring miracles are accomplished by your power, leaving everyone dazed and astonished!" (taken from verses 2-8)*

***Jesus is the true King of our hearts and through the cross, resurrection and ascension is King of all the earth. His anointing rests upon us. His spirit is within us. As Christians, we are "anointed ones"***

***"Standing beside you , glistening in your pure and golden glory, is the beautiful bride to be. Now listen, daughter, pay attention and forget about your past. Put behind you every attachment to the familiar., even those who were once close to you. For your royal bride groom is ravished by your beautiful brightness....bow in reverence before him for he is your Lord.***

***Your many sons will one day be kings, just like their father. They will sit on royal thrones all around the world!" (taken from verses 8-17)***

**Every fear and anxiety that grips us, every negative influence and unhelpful family trait, every cynical and bitter thought has been dealt with at the cross and washed away through baptism. We can put these things behind us. They no longer carry power and have authority over us.**

God reminded me of the story of Cinderella, who rose up from slavery and ashes to become a royal Queen.

**Read and reflect on the prophetic word below.(Cinderella, you shall go to the Ball!)**

**Read Isaiah 52 v1-3** Whatever our gender....let's not act like a princess waiting to be rescued! Jesus has already done that for us. Wake up Sleeping Beauty... clothe yourself with heavenly royal robes Cinderella! Be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are sons and heirs, adopted into his family. We do not have to try to improve ourselves to win his approval. He loves us . He has accepted us. **Eph1 v 4.**

**Isaiah 60 "Arise Jerusalem Let your light shine for all to see. Darkness covers the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises over you. All nations will come to your light".**

Times of crisis bring opportunity. At a time of pandemic disease, we can be Kingdom influencers and carriers of Hope. The enemy wants to keep us slaves to fear as we contemplate the vulnerability of our humanity. God wants to remind us that , through Jesus, we live by faith and share in his divinity. Let's guard our hearts and minds. **We are the King's church family! Let's be who we are. Those who live and love like Jesus. Let's lead the way in prayer, self- care and care for the vulnerable.**

Let's **follow Jesus** by listening to the Holy Spirit, **form** (virtual) **communities** and believe *God's* word which says we still have power to **transform the world**.

## **Cinderella, you shall go to the Ball!**

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**Listen to me oh Royal daughter.** Take to heart what I say. Forget your past, put familiar attachments behind you. For your Royal husband delights in your beauty.

**(Leave the negative traits of family behind. Be enthralled by the Kings beauty).** Ps 45:10

### **Cinderella, you shall go to the Ball!**

She was mourning the death of her parents, ( remembering better times and past seasons) 'kept in her place' by family members. ( the effects of past voices and influences)

Her room was in the attic - place of memories, place of the past.

She was serving in the kitchen/emptying the ashes - Keeping other people happy, dealing with the debris they leave behind. Fearing what others would say and think. Unable to be herself.

**-and all the time she is royalty, not by natural birth, but by love.**

- she tried to sew herself a dress, but it got ripped by one of the sisters. It had been beautiful, the best that she could sew, but it got trashed and turned into rags.

**It was impossible to go to the Ball. Self improvement and effort came to nothing.**

**However, she received a miracle of transformation.** Beautiful clothes, a royal carriage and shoes that only fit her - no-one else.

Only co-operating with the work of the Holy Spirit and offering each aspect of our lives to God will bring change.

**Rise up! Rise up! Put on your new glorious clothes.**

**Leave the attic** (unhelpful memories) **and the ashes** (clearing up other people's mess) **and the kitchen** (serving to exhaustion to see breakthrough/salvation of yourself and others).

**Look in the mirror! See the Princess who will reign as Queen.**

- not because of superficial change which fades like magic but because of the royal character and beauty within.

**Isaiah 60 - Rise up! Rise up spirit within! Rise up in the inside and reign. Put on the beautiful clothes provided by the Prince. Clothe yourself with Christ.**

*“Let me wash away the dirty marks on your face caused by smoke from the ashes. Let me kiss you, so you are encased by my love. My royal seal of approval and belonging is upon you. Who would dare to harm you or accuse you now?”*

*Put on your shoes. The shoes that only you can wear. They are perfectly fitting. Comfortable, so you can be comfortable in who you are. 'Comfortable in your own skin'. They are glass. People can see your feet. They are beautiful feet that have walked a long way. There are stories to tell. People will be attracted by your shoes and want to follow you. They will rise up and come after you, as you rise up and take your place, walking with the Prince.*

*“How beautiful are the feet of the one who brings Good News”. You are royalty and you have good news for the poor. Suffering has produced greater glory and a fuller story... but hard times end and the joy of Jesus is the reality of the happy, ever after.*

*The Princess bride looks glorious in her golden gown - in her beautiful robes, she is led to the King.*

*The princess of Tyre, will shower you with gifts. The wealthy will beg your favour. Your sons will become Kings, like their Father. You will make them rulers over many lands. I will bring honour to your name in every generation”. (Ps 45:10-17)*