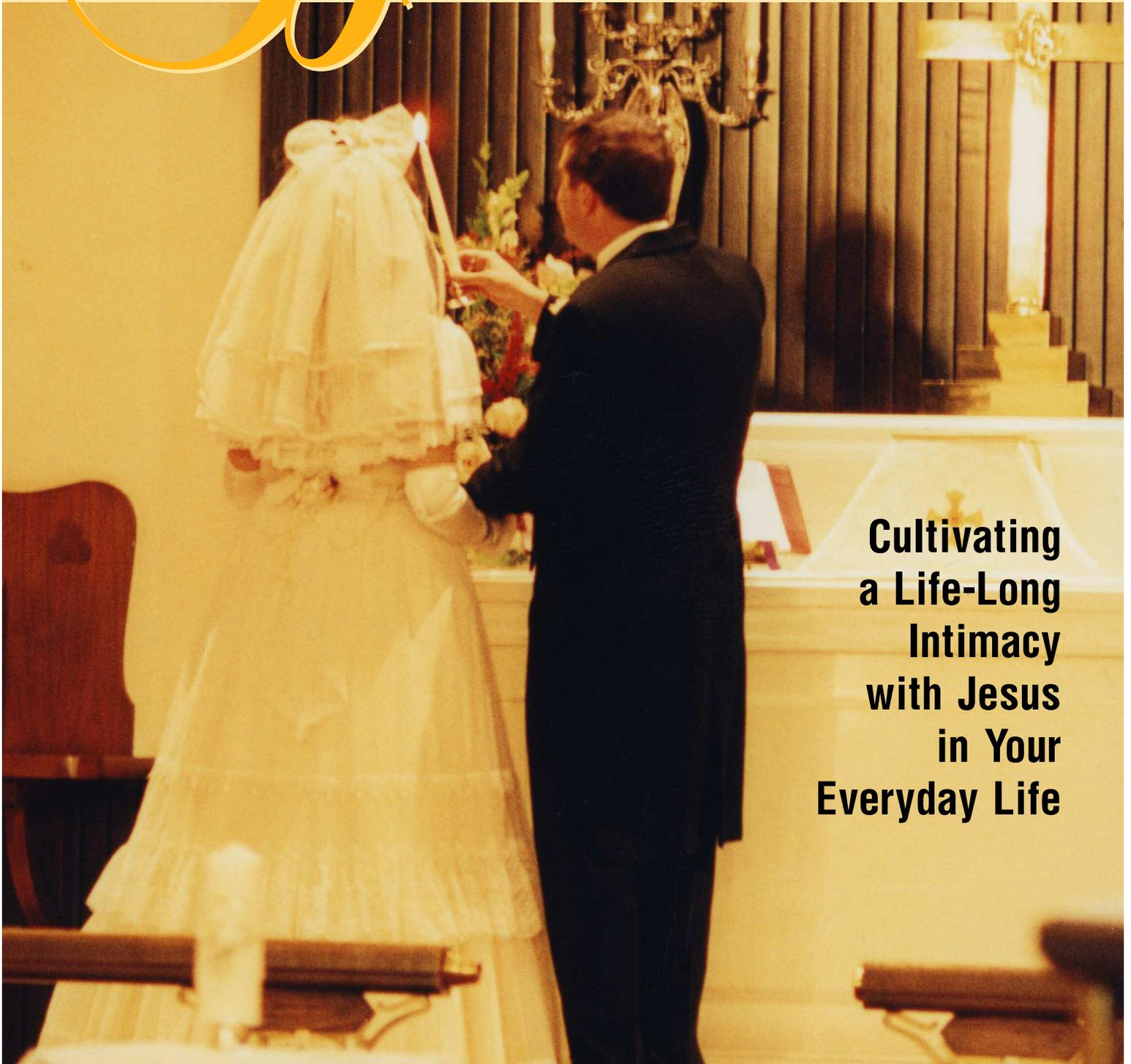


BLOOMING
OF
THE
HEART

BECOMING God's Bride



**Cultivating
a Life-Long
Intimacy
with Jesus
in Your
Everyday Life**

A Topical Bible Study by Dana Susan Beasley

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This book is dedicated to my dear husband who



calls me

*“wife for
life,” and my*

Lord who

orchestrated

our blind

*date, dreamy weekends, a Christ-honoring wedding,
our talented son, nearly 10 years of adventure-filled
marriage, and now a new beginning with home-
schooling!*

Table of Contents

Introduction.....Page 5

Instructions.....Page 10

**Falling in Love with the Bridegroom
References in the Bible.....Page 15**

**Falling in Love with the Bridegroom
Bible Study Worksheets.....Page 16**

**Becoming God's Bride
References in the Bible.....Page 25**

**Becoming God's Bride
Bible Study Worksheets.....Page 26**

Coming Soon!.....Page 35

BECOMING God's Bride

Cultivating a Life-Long Intimacy with Jesus in Your Everyday Life

Introduction

Years ago as a single young woman in college, God put it on my heart to become a wife, become a bride. I can remember praying for my future husband on the grounds of Glen Eyrie, a retreat center run by The Navigators. I felt certain that *somehow* my future husband was *somewhere* on that same property! Yet, years passed and I did not meet the “one” I increasingly longed for, even though I felt strongly that I was called to be a wife and a mother. At times, the longing to find that intimate relationship became a painful hurt, especially when attending weddings. What was wrong with me that I couldn’t meet anyone? Why was I so overlooked? I longed for my bridegroom, but God helped me realize what I really needed and wanted was a close intimate relationship with Him. Because He wanted a deep, intimate relationship with me. And through the years He wooed me as a bridegroom woos a bride.

Funny how God works—a funeral service for a fellow church member prompted some questions in my heart. The radiance of this woman—displayed through the remembrance of her by friends and family—inspired me to want to become such a beautiful person. I wanted to love as this woman had loved. Even to love the seemingly unimportant as she had loved, as Christ had loved.

I began to ask, “Why is it important to obey God— even in my weakest tendencies and in the midst of my constant apathy? How can I live my life as God’s bride? How can I prepare myself to be a bride for my future husband?”

That day, love transformed me and God revealed himself in a special way—as the God who redeems my life from despair and hopelessness. “What does he want me to do?” I asked. *To follow him with whole-hearted devotion. He will shepherd me. He will take care of me.*

This experience deepened my desire to be a bride—to follow what I still believed was God’s future calling on my life as a wife. And this experience deepened my desire to become more intimate with Christ—to become His bride. I wanted to be ready for Jesus to come back for me. I wanted to be a part of that great “Marriage of the Lamb” that the Apostle John describes in Revelation. I wanted to become closer and closer to Him—to be one with Him—and to see Him face to face. I saw that my relationship and forthcoming marriage was the best way to prepare for an eternal marriage with Christ. Because marriage is a picture of the relationship Jesus has with His church, the Bride.

This funeral experience was part of a long process of praying and searching on becoming a bride. Before I met my husband, I often felt lonely. I began to seek intimacy with God. I made many mistakes along the way and crashed down on my knees one painful May night. God answered in incredible grace and mercy.

He asked me that summer, “Would you be willing to not be married? Am I more important to you than your desire for a husband?” I answered, quaking and trembling, “Yes, Lord. You may do whatever you want.”

Little did I know that at that very time God was orchestrating my first date with my future husband! That December, arranged by a mutual friend, Travis Kent Beasley and I met for a blind date at a Madrigal Dinner hosted by Glen Eyrie Castle. And yes, Travis *had* been on the grounds of Glen Eyrie and knew the same people I knew, just had been there at different *times*.

Three years later, through many joys, sorrows, trials, and lots and lots of waiting and continual giving my desires to the Lord, we were married in a beautiful Christ-honoring ceremony. I learned the focus of becoming a bride is not the wedding, but the marriage. Being a life-long bride—a “wife for life” as my husband calls it—is really the hard work!

Where?

When?

Why?

How?
