

The Ruby Slipper...

Each little girl, as she reads and re-reads the classic storybook Cinderella, longs for the day when her prince will come and slip that glass slipper onto her foot. Then - and only then - she believes that happily ever after begins.

I, too, tapped into the fairy tale myth that one day my prince would come and my life would begin. At least I did until one morning when I awoke from a wonderful but thought provoking dream laced with the question, "Where is my gift?"

I recall that in this dream I was with a large group of people when I observed the special delivery of a beautifully decorated box. One by one each individual approached and handed me a sealed greeting card. I laid the cards aside unopened and, with the attitude of a spoiled child, I asked, "Where is my gift? I know I have a gift. I know there is a gift here for me."

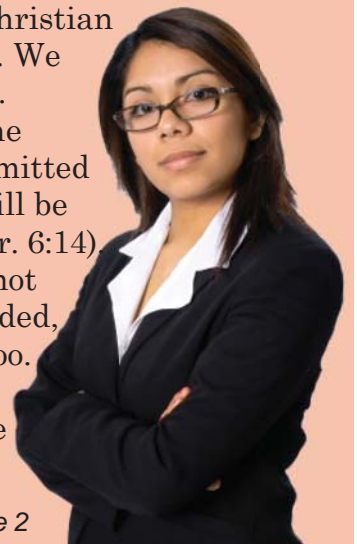
With each card that was delivered the group was quite amused as my bold attitude transformed into frustration. Finally the group relented and gave me the much desired box.

Opening the box, I carefully unwrapped two items - a single, ruby slipper and a debit card imprinted with the name Faye. I awoke both physically and spiritually to a new day in my life as I asked God to reveal to me the meaning of these two gifts.

My spirit was soaring as I realized the truths represented by these precious gifts. The Lord used this dream to remind me that God is pleased to give us the desires of our hearts (Psalms 37:4, 5). I may not see the answer at this time but I know better how to pray for it. The single slipper represented my prayer. The answer to my prayer is the missing mate to the pair. What good is one, single slipper? God has a matching slipper for me.

The slipper was a transparent, ruby color. As Christian women, we often are tempted to pursue the visible. We are, of course, always on the look out for Mr. Right. Sometimes we see individuals that seem to have the qualities we desire, but their lives may not be committed to the Lord. I believe God's answer to my prayer will be found cleansed in the precious blood of Christ (2 Cor. 6:14) Ladies, evangelism dating is dangerous. If you do not see the image of Christ in the actions of your intended, run the other way. God has a ruby slipper for you too.

My prayers also must be transparent before the Lord. If I cannot be truthful and transparent to the





One who has unconditional love for me, (Rom. 8:38, 39) how can I even attempt any relationship with a man?

The one detail of God's message that was difficult to grasp was the name imprinted on the debit card. A quick look in the dictionary revealed the purpose of the debit card. The debit card was an IOU note from God issued to Faye. But my name is not Faye. I struggled with this aspect of the dream for sometime. Then I discovered the name Faye is a variant of the name Faith.

Then, the Lord reminded me of the stack of unopened, greeting cards in my dream. Dear ones, our lives began when we were knitted together in our mothers' wombs (Psalms 139:13-17). Our lives are to be lives of abundance. Read again from the Holy Scriptures John 10:10. By living our lives today to the fullest with God, we are living out our unwavering faith in Him. God doesn't owe the matching ruby slipper to me but to the unwavering faith I must hold to in Him (Mark 11:22-24; James 1:6). How is your faith today?

Focus Questions

1. What are you waiting for to begin living the abundant life?
2. What activities did the followers of Christ in Acts 1 do that we can do as we wait to receive our promise?
3. What opportunities do we sometime pass by because we are not currently a "couple"? How do you think God feels when we choose to not participate in such events?

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