

When I met Jesus, life became rather like a bike ride. It was a tandem bike; I rode in the front and steered, and Jesus was in the rear seat, helping to pedal.

I don't remember just when it happened, but Jesus suggested we change places. Life hasn't been the same since. Jesus makes the ride so exciting!

When I had control, I knew the way. It was safe and predictable, but rather boring—always the shortest distance between two points. But when Jesus got in the captain's seat, He knew delightful "long cuts," up mountain roads and down again at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hold on!

I didn't want to question His judgment, but once I couldn't help myself. "Don't You think we should slow down just a *little*? I'm scared." He turned and smiled and touched my hand and said, "It's okay. Pedal."

Sometimes I got worried and anxious and asked, "Where are You taking me?"

"It's a surprise," He would say with a laugh. Gradually I learned to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered the adventure.

He took me to meet people with gifts that I needed—gifts of love, healing, acceptance, joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey—*our* journey, my Lord's and



A BIKE RIDE

mine—and we were off again. He said, "Give the gifts away." So I did, to other people we met. But the strangest thing happened. I found that the more of those things I gave away, the more I had for myself and to give to people we met along the way. And still our load was light.

At first I didn't trust Jesus to be in control of my life. I thought He would wreck it. But He knows the bike's capabilities and limits, and all sorts of tricks. He knows how to take sharp corners at high speeds, make the bike "jump" to clear rocks in our way, and He can even make it *fly* when the road disappears beneath us.

I am learning to not worry or want to get back in control, but just to relax and enjoy the view, the cool breeze on my face, and the delightful company of my constant companion, Jesus.

I still get tired sometimes because it *is* a long, hard ride, but Jesus just smiles and says, "Pedal."

—Author unknown

WHAT HE GIVES

The crashing wave finally reaches peace as it breaks upon the land. ...
So our turbulent spirits find rest, as we break upon the vast shoreline of God's love.

—Janet L. Weaver

The soul that gives itself wholly and without reserve to God is filled with His own peace; and the closer we draw to our God, so much the stronger and more steadfast and tranquil shall we become.

—Jean Nicolas Grou

God can't give us happiness and peace apart from Himself because there is no such thing.

—C.S. Lewis