

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## Ruth's Life Trusting in the Providence of God<sup>©</sup> by: Rev. Doris B. Ryans

*"The Lord repays your work and a full reward are given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge". Ruth 2:12 NIV*

This month's article focuses upon a woman of the Bible, Ruth whose honorable behavior laid the building blocks upon which you see God's hand at work in her life. You can see God's providence, his divine care and direction in her life, all because of her trust and faith in God. Ruth's life is considered by many to be a beautiful love story with a happy ending. It is my hope that her life, will encourage you to be faithful and courageous in the midst of your life situation; knowing that every day, hour, and moment of our lives are in the trustworthy hands of God.

Ruth was a young woman, a widow, poor, in a foreign land, who by today's standards would be said to be in a very vulnerable state. However, rather than being forsaken, you find a young woman, in whom God displays His marvelous providence in her life! There are three important truths About God's Providence, His care, and His direction that we can glean from Ruth's life:

First, God is at work in everyone's life. Ruth 2:3 states "So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz." KJV Let us look at this phrase... "As it turned out..." This phrase does not imply something just randomly happened, but it speaks about God's providence. In fact, God was directing Ruth step's from the beginning of her entrance into Naomi's family, and continued to do so as time went on. Just think about it....

*As it turned out...* Ruth from Moab became a part of a Jewish family by marrying one of Naomi's sons.

*As it turned out...* Ruth's husband died, having produced no children.

*As it turned out...* Ruth, out of all the fields in the area, chose the field of Boaz, to glean grain.

*As it turned out...* Boaz, because he was related to Ruth's father-in-law, was their Kinsman Redeemer.

*As it turned out...* Boaz fell in love with Ruth.

*As it turned out...* Boaz, married Ruth, started a family with her, rescuing her and Naomi from poverty.

There is a lot we can learn from Ruth's life. Realize that if you are connected with God, when you are completely unaware of what is happening, or even why something is happening, ...as it turns out...God is guiding your decisions and actions. He is working everything together for your good and His ultimate glory. Our responsibility is to surrender to His sovereignty!

Secondly, God intentionally achieves His purposes. Because of the love and faithfulness of Naomi toward her daughter-in-law and Ruth's obedience and submission to the instructions and direction from her mother-in-law, Ruth and Boaz met, fell in love, were married, and had a son. That son became very important in God's ultimate purpose. That son was the grandfather of the man who became the great king of Israel—King David. But that is not all. From David's lineage came God's son, Jesus Christ, born of the virgin, Mary, who came from that family line of David. Through Ruth, God intentionally achieved His purpose. She was an important link in the chain of events that brought the Savior to the world.

Last, God wants us ready to work when He moves us. Ruth had an "I am available attitude". The scripture states she said: *"I will do whatever you say, so she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do."* Ruth 3:5-6 KJV Naomi gave Ruth some very specific instructions to carry out, to show Boaz that Ruth was interested in marriage. She was to go and lay at Boaz's feet until he woke up and covered her with his robe. I am sure this was strange to Ruth as these weren't Moabite customs. But, when she was told this is what she should do, she did it. Ruth was not passive in what she was asked to do. She did not complain. She became an active participant.

It is hard to see that God is working in our lives sometimes. It seems sometimes as if God is not there at all. I want to assure you that God provides and cares for us even when we do not know it. But often times God is growing us and teaching us through difficult circumstances. Ask yourself, have you surrendered yourself to His sovereignty? Do you trust His purposes for your life.... even when things look bleak?

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Have you witnessed God's "as it turned out" moments in your life? When you live a life that honors Him, what is just, what is right, what is for your good is accomplished in your life. Live life knowing that you can trust God no matter what. That He will provide whatever you need for body and soul and that He can turn whatever adversity you face to your good! He is a redeemer, He is a faithful Father, and an Almighty God! He does not promise life will be easy, but He does promise to be there with you, guiding you to solutions, and guiding you through! Your job is to take hold of His hand and follow His lead. I guarantee you, if you do, all things will work together for your good!

### **HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?**

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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