

The Book of RUTH

**TO steadfastly follow the one who you love,
Will you steadfastly follow your Lord?
To steadfastly follow for good and for bad,
To lean upon His every word.
To steadfastly follow, though you have a choice,
To lodge where they lodge and to die where they die;
Yes, if they are full! But what if a Mara; will they still be your delight?
Will you still steadfastly follow for all of your life?**

RUTH I

¹In the days of the judges, there was a famine in the land at that time, and a certain man of Bethlehem-Judah went to dwell in Moab with his two sons and his wife.

²His name was Elimelech, his wife's name was Naomi;

and his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites of Bethlehem-Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

³Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left, with her two sons.

⁴They took wives of the Moabites women: their names were Orpah and Ruth.

⁵Then Mahlon and Chilion also died; so she survived her two sons and her husband.

⁶She heard food was in Israel, for the Lord had visited His people, so she left with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab.

⁷Therefore she went out from the place she was, with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

⁸Then Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, return to your mother's house.

May the Lord treat you kindly, as you have dealt with the dead and me also.

⁹"And may the Lord grant that you find rest, each in your new husband's house."

So she kissed them and they lifted their voices and wept.

¹⁰*She must have been touched*, when they said, "Surely we will return with you to your people; we will follow you."

¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back my daughters, why will you go with me?

Do I still have sons in my womb to be husbands to you?

¹²"Turn back and go, for I am too old to have a husband.

If I should say I have hope, should I have a husband tonight and give birth to sons?

¹³"Would you wait for them until they are grown?

Would you keep yourselves from having husbands?

No, my daughters; it grieves me for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me."

¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, and she was on her way;

She found more hope in freedom than to be committed to despair.

But Ruth was going nowhere; she clung to her mother-in-law and remained,

¹⁵though Naomi begged her to return, saying, "Look, your sister-in-law has returned to her people, and to her gods; return just as your sister-in-law."

¹⁶But Ruth's words of *steadfast commitment warned Naomi's heart*; she said:

"Entreat me not to leave you, mother; *I know Orpah is gone*;

or to return from following after you; wherever you go I will go.

Where you lodge, I will lodge myself; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Naomi's eyes must have been moist as Ruth continued,

¹⁷"Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.

Let the Lord do so to me and more, if anything but death separate you and me."

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was very determined, she stopped trying to persuade her then.

¹⁹And the two of them travelled until they came to Bethlehem.

And when they came to Bethlehem, all the city was excited about them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

²⁰But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi but Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹"I went out full, and the Lord brought me home empty.

Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

@As Naomi told her story, Ruth's commitment touched them all;

to follow one distressed and in self pity demonstrated steadfastness of heart.

²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her from the country of Moab.

And it was the beginning of barley harvest when they came to Bethlehem.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Your act of self-preservation may lead to your devastation; let God order your steps and not your crisis; let His presence lead you and not your present need.*
2. *No matter the consequences, never resort to the enemy of the Lord for solutions. If the Moabites cannot enter the congregation, it is not ideal for the congregation to resort to the Moabites in crisis.*
3. *Steadfastness cannot be reasoned with and it cannot be reasoned away.*
4. *Unfaithfulness needs only an excuse to show up in the most trusted.*
5. *Changing times and shifting circumstances do not change the mind of the steadfast or shift their stance.*
6. *Integrity commands steadfastness on the platform of trust, reliability and authenticity.*
7. *Steadfastness is commitment to stay, to go, to lodge, to live and to die with.*
8. *Steadfastness is commitment, not just to you, but to your God also, otherwise it is a parasite you need to fast away and get away from fast.*
9. *You know a true friend and brother in times of adversity; their response will tell you, "I was born for this."*
10. *Your circumstances may have changed but it does not change you; name yourself based on your expectations and not on your bitter experiences.*
11. *Hope in crisis does not make Maras, it makes resolute; it makes courageous determination.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Ancient of Days, You have been faithful and consistent throughout the ages. Thank You that You remain a brand I can rely on and trust in; thank You that Your word is dependable; thank You that Your character is indisputable; thank You that Your commitment to me is unquestionable.
- Jesus, You committed Yourself to me and to the cross, even when my situation was messy and my life hopeless; I trust Your commitment to be with me to the end. Amen.
- Father, in the name of Jesus, we call forth commitment and steadfastness in marriages and to families now. Amen.
- Lord God of Job, let steadfastness, immovability and abounding faith be evident in every church and in every Christian. Amen.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, let every unfaithful spirit in leadership in our churches and ministry be exposed and driven away, in the name of Jesus.

SHE gleaned of his harvest,
SHE gleaned in his field;
SHE gleaned of his kindness,
FOR her goodness, this she received.

RUTH 2

¹There was a relative of Naomi's husband, of the family of Elimelech.

He was a mighty man of wealth; his name was Boaz.

²So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi,

"Please, let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after the person who will show me favor."

And she said, "Go, my daughter."

³"Then she went, and gathered in the field after the reapers.

And she came by chance to the part of the field that Boaz who was of the family of Elimelech owned.

⁴And Boaz came home from Bethlehem,

and he greeted the reapers, saying, "The Lord be with you!"

"The Lord bless you!" They answered in return.

⁵Then Boaz said to his servant, the head reaper, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶And the servant who supervised the reapers responded, "She is the Moabite woman, who came back from Moab with Naomi.

⁷"She asked, saying, 'Please, let me gather after the reapers among the sheaves.'

She has been here from morning until now, though she rested for a little in the house."

⁸And Boaz said to Ruth,

"Listen my daughter; do not glean in any other field,

nor go from here but stay close by my women."

⁹She gleaned of his favor.

"Let your eyes be on the field they reap, and go after them.

"I have commanded my young men not to touch you.

And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰So she fell to her face, bowed to the ground, and said to him,

"Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

¹¹And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been told to me,

yes, I have fully heard of all you have done for your mother-in-law since her husband died,

and how you have left your father and your mother and your native land,

and have come to a people you did not know.

¹²"May the Lord repay your work,

and may you be given a full reward by the God of Israel,

under whose wings you have come for refuge."

¹³Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, for you have comforted me, my lord,

and have spoken kindly to your maid servant, though I am not like your maid servants."

¹⁴And Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come, and eat of the bread,

dip your bread in vinegar and eat.”

So she ate beside the reapers, and he passed her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied, and she kept some back.

¹⁵And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her gather even among the sheaves, and do not prohibit her.

¹⁶“Also let some grain from the bundles fall on purpose for her; leave it so that she may glean and do not rebuke her.”

¹⁷So she gathered in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned; it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁸Then she took it and went into the city. And Naomi saw what she had gathered. And she brought out and gave to her the food she had reserved for her after she was satisfied.

¹⁹And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work?

Blessed is he who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law that the man with whom she worked was Boaz.

²⁰And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed is he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and to the dead!” And Naomi said to her, “Indeed this man is related to us, he is one of our close relatives.”

²¹And Ruth the Moabitess said, “He said to me also, ‘You shall gather steadfastly by my young men until they have finished all the harvest.’”

²²And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people will not meet you in any other field.”

²³So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, to glean until the barley harvest and the wheat harvest was finished;

And she gleaned of his kindness, while with her mother-in-law she lived.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *What appears to be a chance in the midst of your frustration may be divine orchestration.*
2. *Whatever your hands find to do, do it in love with all your might; do it as unto the Lord and you will capture His eyes.*
3. *It may not be ideal but make it your deal; if it is what you have then give it all you have.*
4. *You may not consider it but God will never forget it; He will not forget your work and labor of love.*
5. *Work on it and in it as if you own it, who knows the mysteries of God, you may well do so one day.*
6. *A heart of gold will attract buyers; keep your motives pure, be dedicated, love at all times; be compassionate and caring.*
7. *You may be a foreigner but love has one language and it is easy to understand.*

8. *Kindness attracts kindness; do all you have with the little you have and it will attract all you need to fulfil the heart you have.*

9. *Live your life putting people first and the play into the heart of God... God honors hearts above heads.*

10. *Your gift makes room for you and places you before great men who will give the room to you. If compassion is all you have, use it, it is a great gift.*

11. *Give your heart to it in tough times and the tough times and tough situations will give in.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father God, I may not understand Your workings, but You will find me working with all my might for You and as unto You. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I call forth my destiny helpers to locate me today, in Jesus' name.
- Omnipotent God, work my bad situations out for good today, in the name of Jesus; turn my frustrations into divine opportunities. Amen.
- Holy Spirit, develop Your fruits in me; give me the attitude of faithfulness in the small things so I can be appropriately positioned for the doors You will open into my destiny. Amen.
- Most High God, let me be defined by my passion and faithfulness and not by the limitations and circumstances I have no power to change. Amen.
- Lord Jesus, I am a candidate for Your heart of selfless compassion and care that defies personal circumstances; Father grant it to me, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OH, DAUGHTER, what shall it be?
He is your relative; go uncover his feet.
Yes daughter, the barley I see!
But Ruth my daughter, tell me, did he...?

RUTH 3

¹Then Naomi, the mother-in-law of Ruth, said to her “My daughter what shall it be; shall I not see your rest and security, that it may be well with you?

²“Boaz, whose young women you are with, is he not your relative?

He is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

³“Oh, daughter, wash and anoint yourself; go looking good, put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor;

but do not at once make yourself known to him until he has finished eating and drinking.

⁴“And it shall be when he lies down, you shall mark the place where he lies; then you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down;

and he will tell you what you should do.

⁵Ruth said to her, “I will do all you say to me.”

⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

⁷And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry that day, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of

grain;

and she came in softly, uncovered his feet and lay down, and he did not realize this.

⁸And so it was, at midnight Boaz was frightened;

he turned himself, and there, at his feet a woman was lying.

⁹And he said, "Who are you?" and she replied, "I am Ruth your maid servant; this is my desire; take me as your own for you are a close relative."

¹⁰Then he replied, "My daughter, you are blessed of the Lord!

For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, for you did not go after young men, whether rich or poor.

¹¹"Now my daughter, have no fear, I will tell you what it shall be; what you request of me, I will do for you, for all the city knows you are a woman of virtue.

¹²"It is true that I am a close relative, however, there is a relative closer than I.

¹³"Stay tonight, and in the morning it shall be, if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you, good; let him do it.

But if he will not perform the duty for you, I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Now lie down until morning."

¹⁴So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could be recognized.

Then he said, "Do not make it known that a woman came to the threshing floor."

¹⁵He then told her to hold out the shawl she wore, and he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

¹⁶When she came to her mother-in-law, she said anxiously, "Is that you, my daughter?" She wanted every word.

So Ruth told her all that the man had done.

¹⁷She said, "He gave me these six ephahs of barley, for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

@Oh, daughter, what shall it be?

He is your relative; did you uncover his feet?

Yes, daughter, the generous gift of barley, I see!

But Ruth my daughter, tell me, did he...?

¹⁸Then she said, "Until you know how the matter is settled, my daughter, sit still, for Boaz will not rest until he has concluded this matter today;

Then we will know for certain what is your destiny.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. You may place yourself at the door of relationship but only virtue can position you for marriage.
2. You may spark an interest but let it ignite process, not subvert it.
3. You have the privilege but it does not give you the rights, do it right and with wisdom.
4. Never let passion or the desires of your heart cause

you to overstep boundaries and the laws of God.

5. Wait until she is yours before you take her; observe due process before you possess.
6. You cannot take her and ignore the responsibility you take on; it is best to address the responsibility first and then the woman.
7. Contain the fire until you construct the hearth to control it.

PRAYER POINTS

- Father, give me the wisdom and character to attract the right spouse, in the name of Jesus.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, we drive away the spirit that causes women to throw themselves at men, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the Blood of Jesus Christ fan away the spirit that causes men to engage women casually without due consideration of the responsibility, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the spirit of lust be dispelled from my life and from my household, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the Blood of Jesus, we call forth responsible men in this generation and beyond, who will take marriage seriously, in the name of Jesus.
- I speak control and restraint in dating into the spirits of our youths, in the name of Jesus..

**A BITTER start, good end, bright future,
That is what everybody wants;**

To have a happy ending

Despite a bitter start;

**And to move into the future with courage
and with pride,**

For despite your bitter start, you are propelling to the skies.

RUTH 4

¹Now, Boaz went up to the city gate and sat down there;

and the close relative he spoke about came by. So Boaz said, "Hello brother, come aside and sit down here."

So the relative came and sat down beside him.

²And he took ten men of the elders of the city as witnesses, and said, "Sit down here."

And they sat down.

³Then he said to the relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab; sold the parcel of land which belonged to Elimelech our brother.

⁴"I am here to inform you, saying,

"Buy it back in the presence of the elders of my people, for to you first rights belong.

If you will redeem it, do so; and if you will not redeem it, then let me know,

for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am after you."

A bitter start, for he said, "I will redeem."

But perhaps a good ending would come.

⁵Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from Naomi's hand, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to continue his name through his inheritance."

⁶Then the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself lest I mar my own inheritance.

You redeem my rights for I cannot do so.”

⁷Now this was the custom in those days in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging anything:

one man took off his shoes and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

⁸And the relative said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself.”

And he took off his shoes.

A happy ending indeed, now Boaz had the rights.

⁹And Boaz said to the elders and all the people,

“You are the witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon, from the hand of Naomi.

¹⁰Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife to continue the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses.”

¹¹And all the people in the gate and the elders, said, “We are witnesses.

The Lord make the woman like Rachel and Leah,

the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

¹²May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the children the Lord will give you from this young woman.”

¹³*It was a happy ending:* Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife, and when he went in to her the Lord allowed her to conceive, and she bore a son.

¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord who has not left you this day without an inheritance;

may his name be famous in Israel.

¹⁵“May he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; he is borne to you by your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons.”

¹⁶Then Naomi took the child, laid him on her bosom, and she became his nurse.

¹⁷Also the neighboring women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed.

As she rocked him in her bosom, the present was just right;

she did not dream of the future, though it would be very bright.

He was the father of Jesse, the father of king David.

¹⁸Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez be-

got Hezron;

¹⁹Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;

²⁰Amminadab begot Nashon, and Nashon begot Salmon;

²¹Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;

²²Obed begot Jesse, who begot David who was king.

A bright future for Naomi; what a way her story ends!

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *It does not matter how you start, the process is just matter(things and events); what matters is how you finish.*
2. *The more trying the process the more satisfying the product and the finish.*
3. *Desire is not open play, do it the right way, observe legal processes even if it hurts, then the end will be peaceful.*
4. *Determination moves you beyond your initial disappointments to your eventual destination.*
5. *With the woman comes the responsibility, do not forsake one and claim the other.*
6. *You will never conceptualize the fact that you carry in your womb the pillars on which the hope of a nation is built; your character will cause you to deliver.*
7. *It does not matter where you are from, or how you got to where you are, if you are rightly positioned in the hands of God, Jesus will use you.*
8. *If you feel destitute, press on; kings are awaiting expression through your gifts; the King of kings is awaiting expression through your womb of destiny.*
9. *They do not know it yet, but they are going to need you; they are going to love you.*
10. *You may have lived through hardships but you do not have to die unsung; your strength and character in the hardship will give credence and character to your life.*
11. *Consort with people who will speak positively into your life and into your destiny.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Lord God of Israel, make me a candidate for divine favors today, amen.
- God of divine turnarounds, change my destiny for good, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I will display consistent character that will make me a candidate for great things. Amen.
- Father God, impregnate me with my mission for Christ today, in the name of Jesus.
- I declare that I shall not cast my baby, but I will travail to delivery. My vision shall come forth and represent Christ in this world. Amen.
- Thank You Lord that every meeting, argument or discussion concerning me will conclude in my favor and favor my destiny, in Jesus’ name.
- Let the power of divine distinction fall upon me now, in Jesus’ name. I shall not die unsung, in the name of Jesus. Amen.