

Titus Women

ALL OF ME FOR ALL OF JESUS

We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

A Naomi Perspective

By Cricket Albertson



I remember watching Anne of Green Gables when my daughter was in high school. We were having some rocky days, and for the first time as I watched that classic movie, I identified with Marilla and some of her exasperation as a mother to Anne. It came as a shock to me to realize that I was growing older, and my perspective was changing a bit. The story of Ruth and Naomi is interesting in this way. When we are young, we

identify with Ruth – the love story and the adventure and her courage. As we get a little older, we see Naomi in a new way. A woman who left her homeland to follow her husband to Moab. We do not know whether she agreed with this decision or not. We do know that in her loneliness and pain, she wanted to go home. Something about Naomi, even in her bitterness, made her daughters-in-law want to accompany her -- better the light with Naomi than the darkness of Moab.

Sometimes we underestimate the power of the love of God and the light of good news. The darkness of Moab had no appeal for those two girls, and though one turned back, the other would not leave the light that she had found in Naomi's life. Her statement of determination in Ruth 1 is a beautiful witness to the power of the light to draw people to the Lord. Ruth declares resolutely that her life is bound together with Naomi's, and she willingly walks with Naomi into God's redemptive story for human history. May we have that determination as well!

Perhaps, the Lord is also calling us to have a "Naomi perspective," to journey with Him in the light. May we be women who...

1. **Welcome others to journey** with us, even in our own personal pain. Our painful circumstances do not negate the Light of the World in our lives. In fact, those

circumstances may make His light shine brighter. We cannot afford to isolate ourselves in this hour, we must keep walking with Jesus and welcoming others to join.

2. **Walk into the body of Christ.** These are the days to join with members of the body of Christ, even if we don't always agree with one another on the details. Anyone who loves Jesus and follows His Word is our brother or sister, and we want to link arms and support one another.
3. **Have an Expectant Faith.** Naomi saw God's hand on Ruth, and she encouraged her to work and to reach out to Boaz. God wants us to be women of wisdom who see God's opportunity and are not afraid to take it and encourage others to trust and step out in faith.
4. **Receive God's Restoration and Goodness.** The end of the book of Ruth is about the restoration of *Naomi's* inheritance and family. The ending is also about a continuation of God's redemptive plan for His people; the line that came from Boaz and Ruth produced King David and King Jesus.

Let us not grow weary in this journey of life! God's ways are good; we can safely trust Him with His world and our future! *"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not (will not/ cannot) overcome it."* John 1:5