

# *Loyal Heart* MINISTRIES

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**Stepping Forward in Faith and Trust - Psalm 37:3-5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Ruth 2**

A Devotion for Women by *Stephanie Little*

*“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.” Psalm 37:3-5*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6*

Do you trust the Lord completely; I mean, for your every step? I remember as a little girl in Sunday School watching my teacher share an object lesson about faith and trust. She pulled one of our old wooden chairs to the front of the room and said something to the effect of: “Putting our trust in the Lord is like sitting in this chair. I don’t think about it; I just sit down. I believe the chair will hold me up. I trust that I won’t fall.” As a young girl, I understood what she meant at the simplest level. But, as a grown woman, I see how shallow that type of trust really is. It’s easy to trust God to hold us up when we’re sitting still; it’s in the moving forward where our real trust is put to the test. Part of the transformation by the renewing of our mind is to process what it really means to trust God for our very next step. One of my favorite passages in the book of Ruth is when she meets Boaz for the very first time. Chapter two opens with the introduction of Boaz as a “man of great wealth.” Verse two shows the stark contrast of social rank between Ruth and this man. It says, “So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, ‘Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.’” Again we are reminded Ruth was a foreigner and a woman in great need of even the basic daily necessities. As Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, came to Bethlehem they arrived at the time of harvest. According to Mosaic Law, provision was made for the poorest of society, the widows, orphans and strangers, through the gleaning of grain fields. Harvest workers were instructed not to pick up any grain that fell by the wayside and to leave grain in the corners of the fields so the poor could follow behind and gather the remains. I love how Scripture says, “She happened to come” to Boaz’s field. Ruth’s path to this particular field is a beautiful picture of the truths expressed in Psalm 37:3-5 and Proverbs 3:5-6. Ruth put her trust completely in the Lord, made her home in His land and began to feed on His faithfulness. She may not have understood all of the laws and traditions of the Jewish people but she trusted their God with all her heart and followed Him in all her ways and He directed her path right into the field of provision.

Ruth had to trust the Lord. He was all she had; everything to her. She was a widow, a foreigner from a pagan land with nothing to her name but a mother-in-law who also needed provision. And yet, God cared enough to lead her to not just any field, but to the best field where His plan for her future would unfold. The strange thing about our Christian walk is that so many of us have forgotten we like Ruth have to trust Him too. In our culture of excess and materialism it's tempting to put our trust and faith in things we own. As a result of misplaced trust, many Christians face our floundering economy with fear and disenchantment, wondering where to turn. The focus of Ruth's heart must be the focus of our hearts as well. We should put ourselves in her shoes and realize apart from Jesus, we're also poor, desolate foreigners with nothing to our name and in desperate need of daily provision. The Lord truly is all we have and we can trust Him to be enough. If we, like Ruth will plant our trust so deeply in the Lord, when times of testing come, we'll "happen" into the right field, simply because we're following Him. And there we'll discover He not only provides our daily needs, but He grants the desires of our heart as well.