

## Faith Tested by the Lies of Disappointment

*Ruth 1:1-5 (NKJV)*

*“Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. {2} The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. {3} **Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died;** and she was left, and her two sons. {4} Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. {5} **Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died;** so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.”*

Naomi had journeyed with her husband and two sons from Bethlehem to Moab to escape the famine that had come to Israel. They dwelt in Moab for about ten years. Then, Naomi’s husband Elimelech died. Naomi was left with her two sons, who had taken wives from among the Moabites. The Scriptures tell us that following her husband’s death, the two sons also died. At this point, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. She would be accompanied by one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth. The other daughter-in-law goes back to her family. Ruth’s reply to Naomi is a powerful statement of faithfulness and faith.

*Ruth 1:14-17 (NKJV)*

*“Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. {15} And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” {16} But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; **For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.** {17} Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”*

The two women journeyed to Bethlehem. They arrive there destitute and without the rights to the lands that Naomi’s husband owned, because an inheritance could only be transferred from

It is interesting to note the meanings of the two sons’ names.

“Mahlon” is pronounced “Mach-lown.” It is translated to mean, “sick.”

“Chilion” is pronounced “Kill-Yown.” It is translated to mean, “failing” “destruction,” “pining” or “consumption.”

(Translations taken from Quickverse 4.0)

father to son. All they could do was scrape up enough food to survive by gleaning in the fields. It was a seemingly hopeless situation. The Bible says that, as Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, the whole city was excited because Naomi had returned. Verses 18-19 record this moment and provide us with an opportunity to look deeply into Naomi's heart. **She was full of bitter disappointment and sorrow.** This is certainly understandable (as much as we can, not having gone through what she has).

*Ruth 1:19-22 (NKJV)*

*"Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" {20} But she said to them, **"Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara,** for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. {21} I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" {22} So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest."*

Naomi surely must have known that the name she was given at birth meant, *"Pleasant."* Naomi felt nothing pleasant about the situation in which she found herself. Her sorrow and disappointment were voiced when she said to call her, *"Mara."* Strong's Hebrew Dictionary defines *"Mara"* (Strong's Number H4843) in the following way: ***"Bitterly angry, discontented and carrying a great heaviness."*** There can be no doubt, as to how deeply life's disappointments had hurt her. Perhaps you, or someone you know, is going through similar feelings.

Feelings are part of our human makeup. Everyone has them. It is part of God's design for us. We are susceptible to so much that can burden us with feelings that are not from God, nor desired by God for us to have them. In Naomi's case, her bitter disappointment left her vulnerable. In spite of this, she would take action to change her situation. Many of us, however, have allowed, or will allow the feelings that burden us to intrude on our faith. **Bitter feelings of disappointment can breeding ground for six distinct, particularly damaging lie.** These will invite us to fall even

deeper into doubts that anything good will come of our circumstances. Here are the six lies:

### **Six Distinct Lies - from the Breeding Ground of Disappointment**

- 1. Life holds nothing good for you. Change your name to “Mara.” ...Better yet, change it to “loser!”**
- 2. You will never have what you wanted in life.**
- 3. Do not expect to keep what you have.**
- 4. You will never do what you believed you could do.**
- 5. You will never be who you hoped to be. Your future is cancelled!**

All five of these lies are designed to take you to the sixth lie. This is the one that will not only keep you captive to your present situation, but will stop you from your eternal destiny.

- 6. God is certainly **not** who the Bible says He is!**

**Lies...Lies... Lies!**

**Notice how chilling and destructive these six lies are.** Many of us have been living with one or more of them for years... all because something or someone disappointed us (or we disappointed ourselves). Imagine going into an art gallery to view a pleasant painting and finding it painted over with black paint. The dark paint now hides the beautiful picture the artist has created. The marvelous work that was in the heart of the artist is completely lost from view. Thank God we are not like that painting. What may be hidden from view because of the disappointments life may have brought us ought not to hide the wonderful works in us that God has created.

*Psalms 139:14 (NKJV)*

*“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”*

Disappointment has the ability to turn into devastating lies about who we are and what our potential is. This only happens when we

decide to believe the lies. The only way they can become truth is if we agree with them and give them a home in our hearts.

- The lies then become our companions.
- If the lies are our companions long enough, they become our masters.
- When the lies become our masters, then all we are left with are negative emotions and loss of our expectations for anything good.
- The result is that faith gives way to doubt and unbelief. We are trapped and feel powerless to change things.

**Everyone has two options when faced with these lies.**

**Option 1:** You can be frozen with bitter disappointment or worse. When this happens, you become a living, dark picture of the lies; and, the doubt and unbelief they have brought to you.

**Option 2:** Your disappointment can become an opportunity for two other appointments. First, you can turn disappointment into an appointment with God! This will lead you to a second appointment, an appointment with His truth!

*John 8:32 NKJV)*

*“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

The Greek word for “free” is “*eleutheroo*” (Strong’s Numbers 1658, 1659). It means, “to liberate” or “to exempt,” “to deliver from slavery, or “to make free.” In the original language, “to make you free” is “*eleutheroo eleutheroo.*” This is a common biblical literary practice, using repetition to strengthen and emphasize the power in the meaning. From this we can take away that the truth has incredibly strong power to set us free from any lies or attempts to enslave us. It then has this same power to keep on keeping us free! We can base our faith on these truths that come from God. Now, it is time to go to the truth and apply it to our faith.

Let’s review Psalm 139:14 and then move ahead to Verses 16-18:

*Psalms 139:14 (NKJV)*

*“I will praise You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.**”*

*Psalms 139:16-18 (NKJV)*

*“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. {17} **How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! {18} If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.**”*

What you just read was David’s statement of faith. It is a great thing when we confess what David wrote, especially in the face of our disappointments. Below, I have given you a series of truths, which you can add to what David has written. Together, they make up a powerful confession that will build your faith. Confess them often enough and they will drive away the negatives.

**Distinct Biblical Truths - They form the Breeding Ground of Victory, Joy, Peace and Your Destiny.**

- 1. You are who God says you are in His Word. You are a devil stomping, winner and champion for Jesus!**
- 2. You can have what God says you can have... and you can keep it.**
- 3. You can do what God says you can do. Make Philippians 4:13 your habitual confession. You really can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.**
- 4. You can become who God says you can become.**
- 5. You have a destiny that you will fulfill.**

All five of these truths are designed to take you to a sixth truth. This is the one that will not only keep you free, but will take you to your eternal destiny in Christ.

- 6. God certainly **is** who the Bible says He is!**

**Truth... Truth... Truth!**

If those truths are not enough, here are two more that will provide an additional spark to fan the flames of your faith.

- 7. **Disappointment is inevitable. Misery is optional.****
- 8. It’s not finished until Jesus says it’s finished.**

The cross destroyed the power of the lies of the devil in a Christian’s life. Judgment has been pronounced. The verdict is in. The sentence will be carried out in a lake of fire!

**Your past is not qualified to determine your future...** unless you agree with the lies and allow them to become truths for you. Here is another aspect of the truth that disallows all arguments against it. It is directly related to your salvation, the identity of Christ, and how it relates to your identity:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he [she] is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**”*

## The Test of Fiery Faith

Luke 3:16 (NKJV)

*“John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”*

It's time to put a fire under your faith. Let it heat up. Let faith in Christ consume your heart. Go ahead. **Catch the fire! Are you combustible? Will you burn for Jesus?**

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NKJV)

*“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, {7} that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, **though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**”*

When faith is **tested by fire**, it does three things:

1. **It burns out** those things that God wants to burn out of you!
2. **It burns in** those things that God wants to burn into you... especially fiery, unusual and seriously hot faith!
3. It offers you the opportunity to remember that God is bigger than what has discouraged or wants to discourage you! He is bigger than your problem, your experiences, or your past.

### A Fiery Reflection:

The devil's biggest lie is nothing compared to God's biggest truth. Let this be your confession: **“I'm on fire and the devil is a liar!”**

## So... what about Naomi?

Naomi does her part, so God can move on the heart of Boaz, who can then do his part. She arranges for Ruth to meet Boaz in the threshing field to ask for his help. He then tells her he is fully aware of her loving care for Naomi. He also tells her that he will do what is necessary, so that a near kinsman can redeem Naomi and Ruth from their situation. He will arrange for a near kinsman to marry Ruth. Boaz calls the men of the town to the gate. He explains the situation to Naomi's nearest kinsman. However, the man tells Boaz he cannot redeem her. Then, Boaz, who is the next closest relative, takes it on himself to do the right thing. In doing so, he becomes the kinsman redeemer. Naomi's property is restored and the rest is history:

*Ruth 4:13-17 (NKJV)*

*"So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. {14} Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! {15} And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." {16} Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. {17} Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, **"There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.**"*

Before Naomi ever left Moab, God had already provided her with redemption. Like Naomi, you have a Kinsman Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will bring to you hope and a future. All He asks is that you have faith in Him. Do your part.