



Tuesday, June 19, 2007

“THE POWER OF COMMITMENT”

Ruth 1: 8 – 18 (AMP)

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- Since the beginning of this year, we have been looking at how we as believers are empowered by God to do the extraordinary.
- We discussed how we are empowered by His **Name**, His **Word**, His **Presence**, and His **Love**.
- We also discussed how we are empowered by our faith, the words we say, as well as the struggles we go through.
- Next, we dealt with what we as believers are empowered to do, such as pulling down strongholds to prosper, and to release some things in our lives.
- Now we will examine the power that is associated with who we are as believers who trust in the God we serve.
- **The Power of Commitment** is demonstrated in our scriptural text by **Ruth**, a wonderful woman of God.
- There is perhaps no other place in the Bible where the power of commitment is so wonderfully displayed as it is in this text.
- The word *commitment* is defined as “The act of binding oneself emotionally or intellectually to a cause or action or to another person...”
- It is also defined as “The trait of sincere and steadfast fixity of purpose.”
- Ruth, according to our text was the epitome of a committed person.
- She totally committed herself to her mother-in-law, Naomi, regardless of the consequences.
- Real commitment is usually demonstrated in how we deal with obstacles and opportunities.
- Ruth remained committed in spite of the obstacles as well as the opportunities in her life.

- First, let us examine the obstacles that confronted Ruth.
- Ruth remained committed to Naomi although her husband, Naomi's son, was dead.
- Ruth remained committed to Naomi although Naomi was financially broke and had no form of income.
- Ruth remained committed to Naomi although Naomi decided to leave Ruth's homeland, Moab, to return to the land of her ancestors, a strange land.
- Finally, Ruth remained committed to Naomi even when her sister-in-law, Orpah, did not follow them.
- Not only did Ruth have to deal with obstacles she also had to deal with opportunities.
- For some people it is easier to overcome obstacles than it is to resist opportunities.
- Ruth was young enough to find a husband and start over again. She could have joined her sister-in-law and returned to her homeland, a place of familiarity, but she stayed with Naomi.

"And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God."
Ruth 1:16

- The lesson for us to learn from this text is, as Ruth was committed to her mother-in-law Naomi, we should be just as committed to God.
- The question for us today is, are we committed enough to overcome obstacles and resist opportunities to follow God?
- Remember, as a result of Ruth's commitment to Naomi, God blessed her in an extraordinary way.
- The Power of Commitment!