

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON SEVENTY-TWO COMMENTS

Dear Loved Ones,

Some of verses that we often don't like to think about are James 1:3-4. *"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

We don't like to think that we should have to suffer or go through trials to improve our lives and be rewarded. Yet we know that if we want to meet any goals, we need to work for it. As women, we get excited when we realize we are pregnant, knowing there is a reward at the end of the pregnancy, yet while we are enduring the pain, we think we can never do this again . . .but then we hold that precious gift of a bundle of joy. That baby shows us how much God loves us by giving us such a beautiful gift. The benefit overpowers the pain. Hopefully, we can also share it with the one that provided the conception. They probably also anticipated the reward of the love they shared together. It is a bundle of God's love and theirs. He didn't have the pain, but he now has many new responsibilities also. Because of sin, the struggle became part of the process. God's plan is still amazing.

He still often allows us to go through many trials and tribulations in other forms for the purpose of showing His love in marvelous ways through it all. If we had a choice, we would often prefer to avoid the struggles because we don't get the same glimpse of a reward like we do when we are expecting a baby. Yet God can always see ahead of the pain. He even knows He has plan to show us His love throughout the process.

A baby is a wonderful immediate blessing. It still includes many years of difficult times to care for that child and raise them safely. Yet we gladly take on that task because we love that child more than we love ourselves.

Jesus endured the horrible shame-filled crucifixion on the cross, but He willingly sacrificed His life knowing that He was doing it for us. He wasn't looking forward to the pain, but He looked forward to the end result.

Ruth went through many struggles, yet she was rewarded with a new relationship and a baby that not only gave her many immediate blessings, but her child also provided a future for her, Naomi, Boaz, and ultimately each of us because that child became part of our lineage of Jesus.

We don't look forward to anything that is out of our comfort zone, but we will either be rewarded here on earth or when we meet Jesus. He wants to show us all that He has available to us as we walk through our journey. He always has a great plan for those who will seek Him.

Enjoy your week, even if it includes more struggles that aren't welcome. May you grow stronger, and closer to Him as you rest in His care, no matter what you may have to face. And may you feel His great Love daily throughout your journey.

Love and Prayers,

Sandy Yates