



Page I

MAY 2016  
BELIEVING FOR BOAZ

Greetings saints of God!

We are well overdue for this, but my lovely wife Shannon will be bringing you the “Living Logos” this month. I know you will be blessed as she shares what is on her heart. So without any further ado, here’s Shannon...

I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying the beauty of this Spring season. The Dickerson yard is in full bloom and everything is beautiful and green and bursting with life. And while everything around us is springing forth with new life, our family is truly experiencing the overflowing, abundant life which Jesus talked about in John 10:10.

Trey is doing great. I am so proud of the job that he has done as Pastor of High Point Church. He truly understands what it means to shepherd a congregation, and I can truly say that he is, hands down, my favorite teacher! Levi is growing like a weed and continues to love baseball and golf and he is doing great in school, but the thing that makes our hearts “smile” the most is how much he loves God and people.

You know that really goes for all of us. It doesn’t matter how well we do our jobs or how gifted we are at something, if we don’t love well, we’re missing out on the true blessing and nature of God because 1 John 4:16 says God is love. I am so thankful for my family!

As for me, my life is full and so amazingly blessed. I will be speaking at a Women’s Conference this month at our church and, in this newsletter, I will be giving you just a little insight on what I will be presenting then so here we go.....

God is so faithful! In March 2001, a friend of mine invited me to High Point Church to hear a minister by the name of Todd Bentley. He spoke over me and said that I would be ministering to women. That was 15 years ago and, of course, before Trey and I ever met.

**As believers, we should be living our lives on purpose, with purpose, for a purpose.** Noah Webster’s dictionary defines purpose as “that which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; intention or design.”

If you don’t know what God has called you to do, try this: make two lists- what you love to do and what you’re good at. Now imagine that those lists are two roads and where those two roads intersect is probably what you’re called to do. For example, if you have under both lists that you are good with children and that you also love to work with children, then you’re probably called to children. Once that is defined, just say yes to God. Let me give you a piece of wisdom-don’t try to make something happen!

When I received these words back in 2001, I simply pondered them in my heart. I spent so much time getting grounded in The Word. God will bring opportunities to you! Every time I was asked to teach a Sunday school class, I said yes. Every time I was asked to lead a Bible Study, I said yes. Matthew 25:23 says, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." God has given us gifts and talents to be used- not buried! Just simply be faithful with what God has given you to do. It's not what we do once a week or once a month or once a year that gets us anywhere. **It's what we do day in and day out, when we feel like it, when we don't, when we want to and when we don't that positions us to be used by the Lord.** Be faithful because our awesome Heavenly Father is faithful!

I, like many people, wear many hats. I am the wife of Trey, mother of Levi, eldest child of Rodney and Wanda, sister of Chad, daughter-in-law of Lonnie and Cynthia, sister-in-law of Scott, Angie and Sabrina, aunt of Josie, Baynes, Jack, Josh, and Jacob, friend to many, and daughter of the Most High God. This last one is the most important title I'll ever wear because it has its foundation in identity and knowing who I am in Him. If I don't have that established in my heart, I can't be effective in relationship with the people I love so dearly. When you know who you are and whose you are, you'll walk out the promises and live in the inheritance that already belongs to you.

Let me illustrate this... Suppose a rich relative of mine passed away and at the reading of the will, I found out that I had been left \$10 million, and it had already been deposited in my bank account. Do you think I would be saying, "That sounds great for someone else but things like that don't happen for me?" Not hardly! I'd be like the road runner getting to that bank to make a withdrawal on what was rightfully mine!

The New Covenant is our bank account, Jesus' last will and testament, and it contains riches that are far and above \$10 million. It tells you what rightfully belongs to you because of what Jesus accomplished at the finished work of the Cross. When Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave, he sat down at the right hand of God.

When there is work to be done, you won't find many people seated. The position of being seated denotes a position of rest. As He is, so are we in this world. (1 John 1:17) He is in us and we are in Him. If He is resting, shouldn't we be doing the same thing? The answer is a resounding yes!! It's up to us to choose to believe it and walk and live it out.

I was raised in a Godly family. My parents love the Lord with all their hearts, but I discovered early on that I could not ride their coat tails into Heaven! There was a period of time in my life when I was not making the wisest choices. I began to understand just how powerful the power of choice truly is. It is actually Scriptural. Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

During this time I began watching Joyce Meyer and got “hooked.” In November 1998, I attended one of her conferences and got baptized in the Holy Spirit. The first Scripture I read that night was John 16:13- “But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future]” (Amplified Bible). I had read the Bible all my life but this was the first time it truly came alive. That Scripture jumped off the page! I figured if He would show me things to come, He would even show me who I was supposed to marry!

This meant the world to me, for from the time I was a little girl, the only thing I could tell you that I wanted to do was to be a wife and mother. When I reached my late twenties, I told God I would not date again until He revealed to me the person I would marry.

I'll share more about that later, but what I want to share with you today is how to receive the fulfillment of your promises.

### **THE FRUITS OF FAITHFULNESS AND DETERMINATION**

The Lord has shown me truths from the Book of Ruth that are applicable to every believer, and I want to share them with you. Your Boaz can be a spouse but it can also mean anything that is in the heart of God that He has stored up that He wants to give you- a financial need, a need in your physical body, a breakthrough in relationship- any need you have or any desire of your heart.

But the first point I want to make is that Ruth did not go seeking after Boaz. Boaz sought her, just as God seeks us. You don't have to be overly focused on your needs and desires. God knows what you need. He wants you to have those needs and desires more than you want them because He is such a good Heavenly Father and He loves you. Psalm 23:6 says, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” It does not say we are to go following after goodness and mercy.

Listen to the words of Jesus from Matthew 6:33- “But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.” We're not talking about making our focus/aim about finding our Boaz. Our focus/aim needs to be seeking after the first thing- first!

Faithfulness is defined as loyalty; firm adherence to allegiance and duty, strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection, constant, true, worthy of belief. Doesn't that sound like our faithful God? We are to be imitators of our Father. “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.” (Ephesians 5:1) Jesus said, “Who then is a faithful and wise servant?” (Matthew 24:45) I put my name in the margin of my Bible.

Let me give you a little background history on the book of Ruth. Elimilech (Naomi's husband), Naomi and their two sons left Bethlehem because there was a famine in the land and went to dwell in the country of Moab. Then Elimilech died and Naomi and her two sons were left. Her sons married women of Moab- one was named Orpah (No, not Oprah) and the other Ruth. They lived in Moab for about ten years. Then both Naomi's sons died. Here is where Naomi was about to return to Moab for she had heard in the country of Moab, that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. Naomi tried earnestly to persuade both her daughters-in-law to return each to her mother's house. Orpah did return, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi.

Now read Ruth 1:6-17. Naomi told Ruth four times to return or to turn back. (v. 8, 11, 12, 15) Hear the heart of Ruth in her spoken words: "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. 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." (v. 16-17) Verse 18 reveals to us why she was able to speak these powerful words. Look at them with me- "When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her."

Do you see this? Ruth was determined. Determined means to be "decided or having a firm or fixed purpose." It implies being steadfastly minded. I would say that Ruth had already purposed in her heart that she would go with Naomi and nothing was going to change her mind. Ruth was selfless. She didn't choose what was easy, but she did choose what was right and virtuous. She was committed to doing the right thing.

Don't ever underestimate the power of simply doing the right thing- being faithful, determined, and strong in the Lord. I would be willing to bet the farm that if Ruth had turned back, like her sister-in-law did, we would not have heard much, if anything, about her, and there most certainly would not be a book of the Bible with her name attached to it. One of the reasons the book of Ruth is in The Word is because there are character qualities and attributes that she embodied. One of these is her determination and faithfulness.

Ruth's primary virtue was her tenacity to purpose. Be faithful to the Lord. Find your purpose and live that out- helping people all along the journey. Find out who or what your Naomi is and be determined to be faithful. **Sometimes, finding your promise is as simple as being there and serving- your husband, your children, serving in your local church, etc... Just simply being there.**

### YOUR PLACE CALLED "THERE"

This leads me to my second point. When you are being faithful and diligent in the little things that God has put before you, it often times leads you into your place called "there."

Read Ruth 2: 4-13. Ruth has gone into the field to glean heads of grain. She happened upon the

part of the field belonging to Boaz. Boaz saw her working and inquired about her. He told her not to go to glean in another field but to stay close to his young women. Boaz said, "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." This is where Ruth found favor in Boaz's sight.

I'm reminded of 1 Kings 17 when God told Elijah, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

**Elijah's place of provision was not where he was but where God told him to go there!** Let me give you a sports illustration of this. A quarterback has receivers who he throws the ball to. When those receivers run pass routes, the quarterback does not throw the ball where they are; he throws the ball where they are SUPPOSED to be. Provision has been commanded where you're supposed to be. Your provision is in your place. **Your grace is in your place.** When you are heading in the direction in which God has told you to go, you won't have to beg God to meet your needs or give you the desires of your heart. Ruth was in her place called there, and it caused her to have favor with Boaz.

I want to tell you about a season of my life and my place called there...

In 2005, I had a job opportunity arise in Athens, Georgia. I was living in Macon at that time. I remember fasting and praying about this potential move. I needed to know that it was GOD leading me and not my flesh. I needed God's peace in this situation.

Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ's] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. Just as an umpire in baseball "calls the shots," I had to let the peace of God "call the shots" as to whether I was supposed to make a move.

I moved to Athens in August 2005 and shortly after, began attending church where my now parents-in-law were attending. About 3 months after I had been there, Trey attended an evening service. (Remember when I said earlier that God revealed to me who I would marry?) That evening, I looked over before the service started and saw him sitting on the front row. We had not been introduced so I had no idea who he was. The Lord spoke to me and said, "That's the man you're going to spend the rest of your life with." It was so strong and clear that I actually looked around to see if someone else heard it! That was December 2005. We had our first date New Year's Eve 2005, got engaged April 2006, got married July 2006, moved to Colorado August 2006, and found out October 2, 2006 that I was six weeks pregnant.

Page VI

I said earlier that from the time I was a little girl, all I could tell you that I wanted to be when I “grew up,” was a wife and mother. I met Trey when I was 34, and you can see from the order of events above how God truly redeemed the “waiting time.”

### **BOAZ, THE REDEEMER**

That goes for any God-given desire- not just a spouse. You may be believing God for a job, a house, a family, a physical need- whatever it is that you are believing God for, I want to encourage you to believe BIG! We serve a BIG GOD who wants to pour out blessings in abundance on your life.

Now read Ruth chapter 4, and when you do, see Jesus, our Redeemer, in the life of Boaz. He was a close relative, or redeemer, to Ruth and Naomi. Just like Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law (as Trey has been teaching on Sunday mornings recently), Boaz redeemed Ruth and Naomi's lives from calamity, poverty, barrenness, and social ostracism. Understanding what we've been redeemed from will cause true heartfelt devotion to the Lord.

I've only had room to cover a few, but the Book of Ruth is full of principles regarding righteous, godly relationships. She exemplifies loyalty, servanthood, determination, and moral righteousness. Her life is a beautiful picture of both faith and faithfulness. Orpah returned to her people and her gods, but Ruth chose the One True and Living God. The way she served Naomi was exemplary.

Remember, Jesus Himself came not to be served, but to serve. (Mark 10:45) **Always choose faith over the familiar.** Remain faithful to the Lord; do not turn back to the familiar things of the world. In choosing God and His ways, we can rest in knowing that He will provide for us, protect us, and redeem us. God Bless You!

Victoriously,

**Shannon**