

**Transforming Daily**  
*“ . . . if anything but death parts you and me . . . ”*  
*Ruth 1:17*

The book of Ruth is one of my favorite books of the Bible. The storyline is a testimony to the awesome work of our sovereign God. Through the lineage of Ruth and Boaz came not only King David, but the King of kings and the Lord of lords Jesus Christ (read the last six verses of the last chapter). However, there is a wonderful story about a mother and daughter relationship (mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship to be exact) that leads up to these events. Naomi (the mother-in-law) and Ruth (the daughter-in-law), as well as Orpah (another daughter-in-law who leaves the scene rather quickly) are left destitute, defenseless and disowned. Naomi's husband dies along with her two sons in a foreign land, and Naomi, Ruth and Orpah have nowhere else to turn but to Naomi's people and homeland. Naomi tries her best to turn the girls away. Orpah does leave Naomi, to return to her "mother's house," but Ruth stays with Naomi.

Many wedding vows quote this passage here in the book of Ruth, groom to bride and vice versa, to show their undying love for one another. However, contextually it isn't being spoken between groom and bride, but between a mother and daughter. It is shared to demonstrate the undying love, commitment, and respect that Ruth has for Naomi. Ruth was given to one of Naomi's sons and therefore was her daughter. Naomi is moved to the quick with what Ruth says and agrees to bring her along anticipating being rejected by her people. God obviously had other plans.

In the last five years, my wife and I have married off both of our children (in return we have three beautiful grandchildren – so far). We have given one daughter away (as far as the umbilical cord can stretch) and received one daughter-in-law as well as gained a son-in-law. Our house is joyfully full. Dawn is in particular delight as she sees everything she has hoped and prayed for concerning our children (and for our daughter-in-law and son-in-law though she did not know who they would be when all four of them were just children – Wayne Watson, Water Color Pony).

There is a strong bond between Dawn and her children (Yana and Joshua), always has been; and now she shares in a new bond that has quickly grown between her new daughters and sons (Amber, Ryleigh, Andrew, Zachary and Matthew). Just try and separate her from any of them. Her love for them is fierce, extreme, and God centered as well as biblically ordained. Watching Dawn interact with all of her children gives me a little sense of what it must have been like when Naomi told Ruth and Orpah to go home and Ruth says, "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."