

Couples In Bloom – **Famine Management**

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How we manage the famines in our lives is very important. This includes how we handle problems in our marriage. No one is born knowing what to do in every situation. God is the one and only Creator and has provisions for every aspect of our lives. Intimacy with Him is where we get the answers we need, and **God uses famines for our increase**:

- ★ Isaac ⇒ Genesis 26: obey all God says to do ► receive **blessings** in tough situations.
- ★ Joseph ⇒ Genesis 37, 39-41: stay faithful with what *do* have ► receive **promotions**.
- ★ Ruth ⇒ Ruth 1-4: love sacrificially ► receive **love** beyond dreams that were given up.

Famines are times of change. Step #1 for change management is always getting **God's perspective**. Isaac, Joseph and Ruth were all committed to living life God's way: they processed life through God's filter first (or at least eventually, if they messed up first like Isaac did ⇒ Genesis 26:7). God is merciful when He sees humility ⇒ Proverbs 3:34.

Step #2 is getting **God's instruction**. This is *different* than Step #1. Hearing God gets distorted when done with mere intellect. God looks for a human heart that is submitted to Him, so that it longs to receive from Him ⇒ 2 Chronicles 16:9. It is possible to do right with a wrong heart ⇒ 2 Chronicles 25:1-2; maturity resolves this ⇒ 2 Chronicles 25:3-4.

Step #3 is then **our obedience**. This action may not always make sense at first (as with Isaac ⇒ Genesis 26:12 who sowed during the famine; others were hoarding). Isaac reaped 100 times what he sowed because he obeyed God. God enjoys blessing His people, especially when people criticize them ⇒ Jeremiah 30:17; Matthew 5:11.

Famines are times of action. As Christians, we have the God who actually ***IS*** God. Faith is actually a verb, therefore faith in God **acts**. Isaac, Joseph and Ruth all acted.

- ★ Faith has no clock.
- ★ Faith is a choice.
- ★ Faith does not quit.
- ★ Faith *chases* problems.

See 2 Corinthians 1:20 and Hebrews 11.

Say this ↓ during your next marital disagreement, argument, fallout, tiff, fight, war, etc:

“This is our problem, God has our answer, satan is our enemy, you are my friend. Let's **dance** in victory with peace and faith in God, who crushes satan under our feet ⇒ Romans 16:20. Let's **laugh** in authority from the power God gave us to speak things into existence by faith. We are wealthy, spiritually, and have more than enough to overcome all this by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony ⇒ Revelation 12:11.”

Then grab your spouse, dance, laugh, and ***watch spiritual warfare in action!*** This may seem crazy at first, but just do it because satan does not want us using our God-given authority to **defeat** him. We **declare** our victory over evil: ***“TOO BAD, LOSER! OUR FAITH IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD ⇒ 1 JOHN 5:4”***

FAITH is how God wants us to manage the famines in our life, including famines in marriage. We are to **FAITH** through famine to get to **increase**. ♥ Loren & Kathy Falzone