

Pre-Convention Devotion

By Lauren Deneen

Often, we will hear, “I’m running to the store for this, that, and another thing.” Or “I need to run to the bathroom.” Or “My heart is racing.” But those aren’t really races, right?

Have you ever run an “actual” race? One that comes to mind is the Color Run. If you’ve never heard of the Color Run, it is usually a 5K race in which volunteers throw clouds of colored dust at the runners. Running through each cloud, though fun and exciting, is also scary and disorienting. There are times where all you can see is a cloud of colored dust.

As the dust clears, you can once again see the crowd that surrounds you. These races remind us of the race we are all called to run. This race has distractions — like clouds of dust that make it hard to see where we’re going. And there are parts of this race, little runs, where you feel like you’re running as fast as you can, but you’re not getting any nearer to your goal.

What kinds of runs and mini-races do you have before you, ones that distract you from **the** race?

When you are in the midst of your races, to whom do you look?

You may have many different personal answers to the first questions, but the last question, I hope, is answered the same by all of us. We ought to look to Jesus! Though so many things can distract us during our race, such as clouds of smoke, the latest clearance deals, or deciding what to pack on a trip to Lexington, there is one thing we ought to look to ... Jesus, *the founder and perfecter of our faith, who ... endured the cross ... and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:2).

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for this amazing opportunity to connect and learn from, and with, one another. Bless our time here together. Bless the races each of us face and remind us to look to You, Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith — You who endured the cross for us and are seated at the right hand of God. Amen.



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