

Post-Convention Devotion

By Lauren Deneen

Have you ever been surrounded? Maybe you were at a concert or in the midst of Black Friday shopping, frantic shoppers all around, each looking for the best deal. Maybe it was the last family gathering you were able to attend — perhaps a wedding reception; maybe it was this past week at convention! Write down a few times you have felt surrounded.

When I think of being surrounded, I remember going to Lowe’s with my dad as a kid. Since he walked so fast (even according to most adults!), if I looked away for one second, he’d be gone — out of sight! I remember feeling overwhelmed and so scared, surrounded by aisle upon aisle of shelves that tripled my height. My eyes frantically raced, searching for my father. “Once I find my father,” I thought, “he will take us home!” It was never long before he found me again, but in my child’s mind, it seemed like forever!

Being “surrounded by a cloud of witnesses” — how amazing does that sound? In that sense, it’s more like being surrounded by family, or your father’s loving arms. I have great news!

Right now, you are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses — whether you are participating virtually, reading this devotion with your LWML sisters on the bus ride home from convention, or on your own. We are all running the race together. What are we racing toward? I think the standard Sunday school answer applies best here: “Jesus!”

Take some time to write down “clouds” of witnesses you’d like to pray for as you continue your individual races at home, and with your local church, family, and community.

Let’s join as one cloud of witnesses in prayer:

Dear Father, thank You for bringing all of us together today and every day through Your Holy Spirit. Give us the endurance we need to finish the race You set before us, and help us to encourage one another to do so, too. When we fall or grow tired, remind us always to look to You, the One Who with joy went to the cross for us and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. Amen!

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