



2015 LWML Convention  
**Pre-Convention Devotion**

“Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap”

Welcome to bountiful Iowa! Whether you flew in from the coast, travelled across the country on Interstate 80, or chose another scenic route, you were surely welcomed by row after row of beautiful, green cornfields. After all, it's growing season in Iowa and you're just in time! Are you ready to grow?

Let's start with the Seed of God's Word. Open your Bible and read the words of this year's convention theme found in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV). Write these words here:

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Were you surprised at these words? Perhaps you were expecting the Parable of the Sower. Sometimes in order to grow we have to dig a little deeper. Just as a farmer must prepare the soil before planting, so also God wants to prepare our hearts to hear His Word. We may have to set aside our expectations and weed out the distractions. It's time for some spiritual nourishment.

What are some things that have been distracting you from God's Word lately? List them here:

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Read the verses from 2 Corinthians again. Did any words jump out at you? What about the phrase “to make all grace abound to you”? How has God's grace touched your life?

Over the next few days you will hear many speakers share how God's grace abounds in their lives. You will also have many opportunities to grow in faith as God's Word is planted in your heart and nourished through the Sacraments. Whether this is your first convention or your twenty-first, God has great things in store for you. He wants you to be a part of His bountiful harvest.

What difference can one person make? What difference can you make? Never underestimate God's ability to use one person (you) to reach many through the working of the Holy Spirit through your witness and His Means of Grace. Just consider this for a moment. Did you know that just one ear of corn produces an average of 800 kernels nestled in 16 rows? (That's just like our convention seating!) One hundred bushels of corn (the amount produced on about half an acre of fertile Iowa farm land) produces over nine million kernels. If God can bless a simple kernel of corn like that, just imagine what He can do in the life of a believer! His love and grace are limitless.

But more on that tomorrow. For now, it is time to get some rest. A farmer's day begins early and so does yours! Let's pray before you drift off to sleep counting rows of cornfields.

*Gracious Lord, I thank You for making it possible for me to be here this day and for granting me safe travel. Prepare my heart and my mind for the exciting days ahead as I seek to grow in faith and knowledge of Your bountiful love for me. Teach me Your ways that I might be a blessing to others. Bless all those who have worked to organize this convention as well as the leaders, speakers, and all who attend. We give You all praise and glory. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.*

