

## Hiding in the crowd

I keep hearing people talking about what WE must do, but very few statements from people who say this is ME and what I will give - and it troubles me that we have lost the ME factor from our faith because it is selfish or proud or arrogant. Lyn said this is ME a few weeks ago, not this is what WE will do.

I was reading the beginning of Hebrews 12 when a picture was drawn in my mind in which I was surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses rejoicing in what they had seen, what they had heard and what they now knew to be the great truth.

I was surrounded by this great crowd of witnesses who had found freedom from years of captivity with the touch of a coat; by sharing water from a well in the heat of the day; with two copper coins on an offering tray; through pouring the perfume of life with extravagant love and with tears of compassion that brought life from the tomb.

I was surrounded by this great crowd of witnesses who shared a great prayer for "Thy Kingdom to come, Thy will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven" while old people dreamt dreams, the young shared visions and there are prophecies in abundance to which everyone sings "Amen" with a passion. What do we sing?

I was surrounded by this great crowd of witnesses, excited and encouraged that WE are the people who will step out in faith into the darkest of places and the loneliest of spaces with hope for the hopeless. Yes, I was surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses in which the proud ME was now sharing with the humble WE and the 'me-me' culture was now a collective 'we-we' movement to change the world. There's no 'I' in our team anymore so we're working together for the kingdom to come and God's will to be done. Amen! What do we say?

I was surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses, but there is always someone else in a crowd who should do what needs to be done or say what needs to be said. That's why I like being part of the crowd - I can so easily hide!

It is easy being a member of the WE where I don't have to reveal the true ME because I know that WE can change the world but I'm told ME and my voice will never be heard. So the ME has been lost in the crowd to become part of the WE which is fine by ME because there is always someone else to set the world free!

I was surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses, but I can see tears in their eyes for they were grieving the death of someone they loved. She was the most popular member of the crowd who did everything and anything without complaint. Her name was Someone Else!

Someone Else was indispensable. She was so gifted that there wasn't a job she couldn't do and nothing was too much for Someone Else. Whenever there was a job to do, or a meeting to attend, one name came top of everyone's list: "Someone Else will do it!" Someone Else was looked to for inspiration as well as results and was expected to be the miracle maker. You could always depend on Someone Else who was among the most liberal givers so when there was a financial need everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

I was surrounded by the great crowd of witnesses grieving the loss of Someone Else, but there was one person who stepped from the crowd and offered to help and it was Else's brother. We all love a volunteer, if it doesn't have to be me, so Someone's brother, No-one Else was elected unanimously!

I was surrounded by this great crowd of witnesses who always assumed Someone Else was doing a great job and although No-one did just as well and achieved just as much - or just as little! -- wasn't given the same acclaim as his wonderful sister. She really was Someone Else beyond compare and always in demand by the people in the crowd who grieved her loss. What will we do now that we can't trust in Someone Else to do the work?

I see this great crowd of witnesses and ME and my story are hiding in the crowd; I hear this great crowd of witnesses with ME and my voice unheard above the song of the crowd and I feel this crowd of witnesses all around and ME and my presence is crushed by the crowd but I always knew that Someone Else would be ME and make me part of the WE!

Please, let's put the ME factor back into the WE because Someone Else died a long time ago and with No-one Else doing the job the crowd are only witnesses to the man carrying the cross and we can't depend on Someone Else to be pulled from the crowd to carry it!

We can experience healing but only when we step out of the crowd and say it was ME do we find the real peace that the Lord wants to give so let's not be surrounded by a crowd of witnesses who watch and believe what they see, but an amazing crowd of

disciples who say take ME for who I am. The real ME is hidden in the crowd and WE can't do what needs to be done until the ME factor returns.