

## Storming the Court

I was there. I was in the stands at Lawrence Joel Coliseum when Wake Forest defeated nationally-ranked Duke in a hotly contested basketball game. It was an important late-season game for Wake as they tried to build a resume that would help them be selected for a 2024 NCAA tournament bid. Clinging to a 2-point lead, a Wake player made two free throws to stretch the lead to four points, with 1.2 seconds to go. Victory was assured. Even before the ball was in-bounded for the final play, the crowd was streaming down the aisles towards the court. As soon as the horn sounded, thousands of people rushed onto the court to celebrate the victory.



The hype for this game was amazing. The sell-out crowd arrived early to receive one of the 10,000 signature tie-dyed shirts given out that day. It was the largest crowd in Wake Forest history, and most of those in attendance were cheering loudly for the home team. Wake Forest hadn't lost on their home floor all season, yet visiting Duke was favored in the game. The atmosphere was electric and reached a crescendo in the final seconds. When the horn sounded there was no holding back the jubilant fans. It was time to celebrate.

We don't know what the celebration will be like when we reach Heaven. Scripture tells us, *The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in Heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."* (Revelation 11:15). *Then God's temple in Heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.* (verse 19). All this is difficult to comprehend

because Heaven is beyond our wildest imagination. We do know that God's victory is assured and believers will be on the winning team. Scripture tells us it will reverse all the troubles, sorrows, and pains experienced in this world. "*God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*" (Revelation 7:17). The Bible gives us images of a lush garden, a gleaming city, and a marriage feast. It will be a time when all things are new, where God is always present, and His perfect will is always done. God and His people will be united in a love we have yet to fully understand.<sup>1</sup>

The celebration of that glorious Wake Forest victory was short-lived. Human celebrations on earth often are. After defeating the #8 team in the nation, Wake Forest was soundly defeated in their very next game by the 12<sup>th</sup>-place team (out of 15) in their conference. In contrast, the celebration in Heaven is forever. Jesus will be on His throne, and we will be in His presence forever.

I didn't storm the court at Lawrence Joel Coliseum, but it is my hope and prayer to join the celebration in Heaven.

**The Bible Says:** *Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people. (Revelation 21:3).*

**Closing Prayer:** Most gracious Heavenly Father. We want to be with You, to celebrate Your Kingdom, for eternity. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Portals of Prayer, February 29, 2024