



**THAT'S
FAITH**

CHARLES BLONDIN

1824-97

Blondin was a very gifted French acrobat and tightrope walker. He began his career as "The Little Wonder" at the age of 6. His most celebrated act, done when 35, was to cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope. The rope stretched 1100 feet across from one side to the other and was 160 feet above the water. He crossed it blindfolded, then in a sack, then on stilts, then pushing a wheelbarrow and then with a man on his back. On one occasion he sat in the middle of the rope and cooked and ate an omelette. At 72 he was still doing somersaults on stilts 170 feet above the floor of the Crystal Palace in London.

There is a story told about Blondin.

One day he crossed Niagara pushing a wheelbarrow. The crowd went mad with excitement. He was feted by thousands of spectators.

Then he asked the crowd if they believed that he could cross to the other side pushing the barrow with a person in it.

With one voice they all roared, "Yes, yes, yes, of course you can".

Then he went up to the nearest admirer and said to him, "You there, hop in".

Now it was a long way across and a long way down to certain death.

It was easy to say "I have faith in you, Blondin." "I believe that you can take someone across." But the acid test of his faith in Blondin was whether he was really willing to trust him with his life, and get into the barrow.

Otherwise, it was just so much talk.

It is the same with faith in Jesus Christ.

Our rebellion against God's rule over our lives has cut us off from him completely. Rebels deserve to die.

With God there is real life and hope. Without God there is only death and hell.

Jesus came to bring us back to God. He asks us simply to trust him.

Jesus lived a perfect life for God and then he died the death we deserved. God accepted Jesus when he brought him back to life.

So you too can trust Jesus. And you have to trust Jesus because he is the only way to God.

Trusting Jesus with your life is like going across Niagara with Blondin. It's dangerous and exciting. There was always a risk with Blondin but there is none with Jesus.

You have to put your whole life in his hands. You have to let him do the lot. You have to do exactly as he says. And you have to keep on trusting all your life.

If you want to really live, now and always with God, then trust your life to Jesus.

So it is not a matter of saying "I have faith in God" or "I believe in Jesus Christ." It's not a matter of words.

It means letting Jesus run your life. He must be the boss. He must make all the decisions — if he is going to bring you to God.

THAT'S FAITH

It is impossible to be a Christian without exercising faith. By faith we mean neither guesswork, nor believing just anything, nor superstition, nor making up what we know is not true. Faith is trust. The Christian is a believer because he has personally trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He has handed himself over to Christ. So faith is confidence in Christ and dependence on Christ. It is also taking God at his word and believing his promises.

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Read about Jesus for yourself in 'Good News for Modern Man'. Price 95 cents at any good bookshop.

Also 'Basic Christianity' by John Stott. Price \$1.50.

Written by Robert Collie

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P.O. Box 253, Kingsgrove, N.S.W., 2208

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