

Giant Faith

Luke 17:6

The story is told of a great stunt man who strung a rope across Niagara Falls to perform a daring high wire act. A huge crowd formed as he made his way back and forth over the Falls. The excitement level grew as he added a bicycle, then a wheelbarrow to the act. Finally he asked the crowd, "Do you believe I can carry a man across the wire?" His request was met with loud cheers. The performer then singled out one especially enthusiastic observer and asked, "Do you really believe I can carry a man over the Falls?"

"Yes!" came the immediate reply.

The great entertainer smiled as he shot back, "Okay, then. Hop on my back and let's go!"

Within a matter of seconds the suddenly reluctant volunteer retreated into the crowd.

Why do you think the spectator balked at the offer of being carried on the high wire? Obviously he believed in the stunt man's talents. But he lacked the faith to truly put that belief to the test.

In many ways, the spectator's response in this story mirrors the difference between belief and faith in the Christian life. Many people believe in God as the creator and highest power of the universe. But they struggle with putting that belief to the test when it comes time to trust God. Sadly, these people fail to realize the great power and possibilities of faith that Jesus described in Luke 17:6.

If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it will obey you.

Financial struggles are among the most challenging crises we will ever face. Few situations are more frightening than when we don't know if we will have the funds for even the basic necessities of life. In those moments, we can feel like our faith is small and feeble, almost overwhelmed by the desire to take the burden solely upon ourselves.

But money problems also present an opportunity to let our trust in God shine. He wants us to place full confidence in Him, believing that He will intervene to meet our needs. Are you facing such a crisis today? Take a step of faith by placing your trust in the Lord. You might be amazed at how faith that seems so feeble will bring about incredible results. In the end you'll discover that God is indeed faithful.

How do you define the word "faith"? What's the difference between faith and belief?

When you face a time of crisis, in what ways is your faith demonstrated in your actions? How can you demonstrate faith in God during times of financial struggle?