

Stepping Out of Our Comfort Zone

I recently read a story about a world famous tight rope walker, Charles Blondin. Blondin traversed the gorge at Niagara Falls on September 14, 1860, a 1,100 foot long walk, suspended 160 feet above the turbulent Niagara River. The stunt was well advertised so a large crowd gathered to watch. Before starting his tightrope walk across he asked the crowd if they thought he could do it. He received enthusiastic applause and they continued to cheer loudly as he easily made his walk across and back. Then, he asked the crowd if they thought he could do it pushing a wheelbarrow in front of him. Again the crowd cheered him on. Confident he could accomplish the task he easily pushed the wheel barrel across the gorge and back. Then he spoke to the crowd a third time, asking if they thought he could do it with someone riding in the wheel barrel. Again, they showered him with enthusiastic applause. But then he asked the real question: "Who is willing to volunteer?" The boisterous crowd suddenly became silent. Now it was personal. They were willing to cheer him on if it didn't involve them. Finally, an old woman stepped out of the crowd and got in the wheel barrel. The woman was Blondin's mother. He successfully pushed his mom across in the wheel barrel and back again.



It is easy to cheer on someone else if you are only a spectator and you have no personal commitment. There is a big difference between the commitment of the woman in the wheel barrel and the rest of the crowd. The crowd was only willing to play it safe. Only the old woman, the mother of the famous tightrope walker, was willing to show her commitment to her son.

Where are you with your commitment to God? Consider these questions:

- Are you hiding in the crowd or willing to step out of your comfort zone?
- What factors do you consider when making the choices that you make?
- When God asks, "Who is willing to volunteer," will you step up?
- Are we all talk but no action? *Faith without works is dead. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works (James 2:18).*
- Do you have faith and confidence in the Lord that He will see you through any challenge you may face?

What does this all mean for you? God has plans for you. They don't involve sitting on the sidelines, hoping that someone else will step forward. You may be hiding in the crowd but God wants to ask you to step up. The familiar verse says: *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8).* Step forward when the Lord calls you instead of stepping back. Trust that the Lord has prepared you for the very task He wants you to complete. While your confidence level may be shaky God's isn't. He knows what you can do and He knows that He has brought you to this important moment of your life. What are you going to say to Him when He asks you?

Prayer: Lord. There may seem to be security in the safety of the back of the crowd. That, however, is a sign of insecurity – not having confidence that the Lord has your back. If we feel God is calling us let us step forward boldly in true faith. We can accomplish important work for you Lord if we just trust that you will be with us. Here am I. Send me. Amen.