

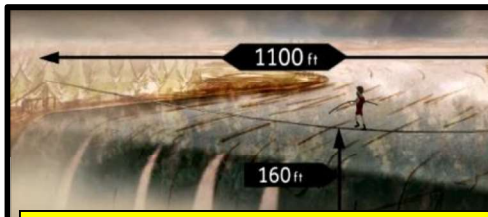
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE FAITH?



Have fun reading this together.



JEAN FRANCOIS GRAVELET, KNOWN AS THE GREAT BLONDIN, WAS A FAMOUS TIGHTROPE WALKER AND ACROBAT.



HE'S KNOWN FOR HIS MANY CROSSINGS OF THE TIGHTROPE, 1100FT IN LENGTH, SUSPENDED 160FT ABOVE NIAGARA.



HIS ACT WOULD BE WATCHED BY LARGE CROWDS...



...AND BEGIN WITH A RELATIVELY SIMPLE CROSSING USING A BALANCING POLE.



THEN HE WOULD THROW AWAY THE POLE AND AMAZE THE ONLOOKERS.



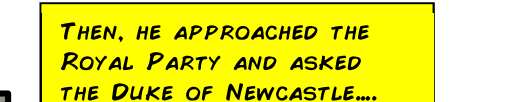
IN 1860 A ROYAL PARTY FROM ENGLAND CAME TO WATCH BLONDIN PERFORM.



AFTER HIS NORMAL SPECTACULAR CROSSINGS, HE THEN WHEELED A WHEELBARROW FROM ONE SIDE TO ANOTHER, AS THE CROWD CHEERED.



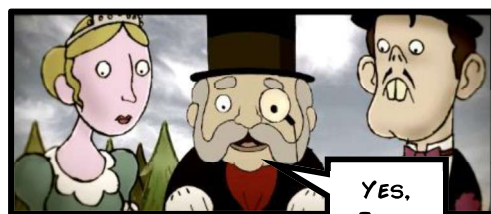
NEXT, HE PUT A SACK OF POTATOES INTO THE WHEELBARROW. THE CROWD CHEERED LOUDER.



THEN, HE APPROACHED THE ROYAL PARTY AND ASKED THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE....



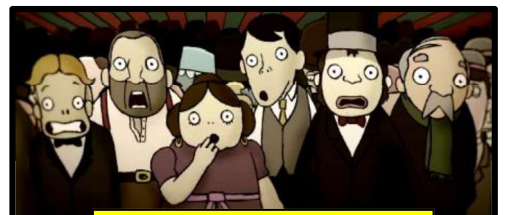
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I COULD TAKE A MAN ACROSS THE TIGHTROPE?



YES, I DO



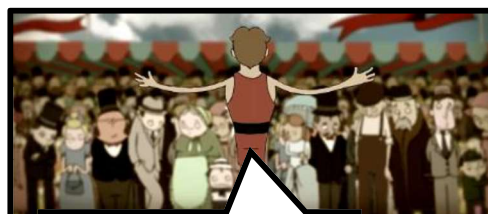
HOP IN!



THE CROWD FELL SILENT...



BUT THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE WOULD NOT ACCEPT BLONDIN'S CHALLENGE.



IS THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO BELIEVES I CAN DO IT?



NO ONE WAS WILLING TO VOLUNTEER. EVENTUALLY, AN OLD WOMAN STEPPED OUT OF THE CROWD AND CLIMBED INTO THE WHEELBARROW.



BLONDIN WHEELED HER ALL THE WAY ACROSS AND ALL THE WAY BACK. THE OLD WOMAN WAS BLONDIN'S MOTHER. THE ONLY PERSON WILLING TO PUT HER LIFE IN HIS HANDS!

So, faith is putting our lives in Jesus' hands.

