

The Compass

a tool for disciplers



Equipping Believers for Ministry

Faith Over Niagra Falls

Sometimes there is a need to clarify that becoming a Christian is not simply an intellectual assent to the gospel message. Technically, Satan could affirm its truthfulness and accuracy.

So the story of the great tightrope walker “Blondin” has been employed as an analogy over the last three decades of evangelism to demonstrate that faith involves the active component of trust. Here’s the story:

The great tightrope walker Blondin strung a wire from one side of the Niagara Falls to the other. A crowd gathered to watch him attempt to walk out over the deadly falls. The silent tension turned to cheers as they watched him walk out, turn and come back.

He asked the crowd, “How many believe that I can walk to the other side and back while pushing a wheelbarrow?” To which they shouted, “We believe, we believe!” And, Blondin did in fact walk out and back with a wheelbarrow.

Upon his return, Blondin asked, “Who believes I could push a man in this wheelbarrow while walking out and back on the wire?” Again the crowd responded with enthusiastic affirmation.

“OK,” he asked, “Who would like to get in?” The crowd fell silent.

Trusting Christ is not simply assenting to the facts of the gospel message, there is a decision that implies actually getting into the wheelbarrow.

End 

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ’s Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We’d love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org