



**A MATTER OF
LIFE or DEATH**

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Excitement filled the air as crowds gathered near the mighty cataract of Niagara Falls that June day in 1858. Attention was riveted on the 1100-foot tight-rope stretched from the American side of the falls to the Canadian side. Charles Blondin, world-renowned tightrope walker, had just crossed the falls on that rope.

Turning to the sea of watching faces, Blondin spoke. A solemn hush fell over the crowd as they heard his challenge. He wanted to recross the falls with a man on his back!

"Do you believe I am able to carry you across?"

he asked one man in the audience.

"I certainly do", replied the man.

"Then will you let me do it?" Blondin queried.

"Not on your life!" came the quick reply.

Turning to another man, Blondin posed the same challenge.

"I believe you can carry me across", the man said. *"In fact, I have no doubts at all."*

"Then will you trust me to do it?" the tightrope walker asked.

"I will!" the man agreed.

Breathlessly the crowd watched the two men start across the rope. Step after step they moved along. Soon they reached the centre. The rushing, churning Water was unable to erase the sight of the ugly threatening rocks beneath.

Slowly but surely, without hesitation, they moved toward the other side. Then they stopped. A guy line had broken and the rope was swaying dangerously!

Blondin spoke in even, deadly tones to the man on his shoulders.

'You are no longer yourself, Mr. Colcord. You are part of me. If I sway, sway with me. Do not try to move or balance on your own, or we will both die. Your complete trust in me is now a matter of life or death.'

They began moving once more across the wildly swaying rope, and at last, they reached the other side.

The crowd went wild with relief. Complete trust and obedience of the one man for the other had saved the lives of both.

Another rope has been stretched over a chasm every person must cross. Bridging between time and eternity is the great rope of Christ's salvation. There is only one safe way to cross this gulf, and that is through complete trust in Him. (1)

Sure you've heard this before. Like the first man, you may even believe Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. But belief is not enough. You must also trust.

You may believe without making a commitment.
But will you trust? Trust requires action. (2)

Make no mistake. Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ. Your complete trust in Him is a matter of life or death. Delay can be dangerous. "How shall we escape (Judgement) if we neglect so great salvation (Heb. 2:3). Right now put your trust in Him, and commit your life into His hands.

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Bible References:

(1) Acts 4:12 (2) Romans 10:9

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