



CROSSBRIDGE 11.15.003.jpeg

In almost every story the hero struggles with the same question:

Do I have what it takes?

Donald Miller, "Building a Storybrand"

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THE FEAR OF NOT HAVING WHAT IT TAKES

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FRUIT

"I'm afraid of what it might cost me."

ROOT

"I'm afraid <u>I don't have what it takes</u> to sacrifice like that."

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FRUIT

"I'm afraid it might not go the way I want it to."

ROOT

"I'm afraid <u>I don't have what it takes</u> to give up control like that."

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FRUIT

"I'm afraid of what my family or friends might think."

ROOT

"I'm afraid I don't have what it takes to go against the norm like that."

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FRUIT

"I'm afraid it might not work out the way I hoped it would."

ROOT

"I'm afraid <u>I don't have what it takes</u> to handle disappointment like that."

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MATTHEW 14

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

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"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said...Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

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Not "having what it takes" doesn't disqualify us from being used by God. In fact, it might be one of the very things which qualifies us the most.

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MARK 12

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

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Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put **more** into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

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What you are doing is "more" - more significant, more valuable, more eternal than you could EVER quantify on this side of eternity.

REFRAMING OUR WEAKNESS

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2 CORINTHIANS 12

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

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Your weakness is no longer a source of shame - it has now become the platform upon which the power of God is made most visible.

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20 Super Dad Saves Daughter From Getting Run Over by Toy Car!!.mp4

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

We look not to the things that are seen but to the **things that are unseen**. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

HEBREWS 11:1

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about **what we do not see**.

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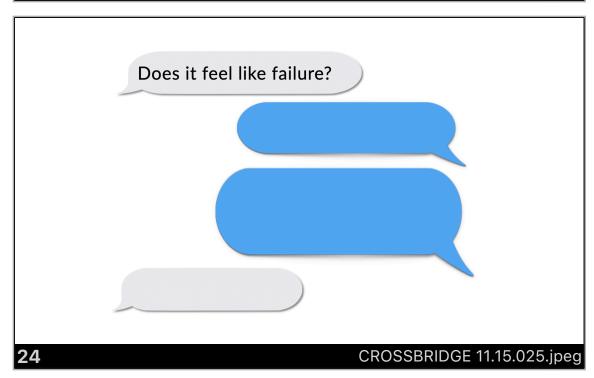
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It's the mercy of God that He doesn't show us everything that will unfold on the journey the moment we first say "yes" to it. All the good would be too unbelievable and all the hard would be too unbearable.

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Does it feel like failure?

Yes, but I have to believe it's not.

Maybe success was determined the moment we first said "yes" to her.

That makes sense.

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HEBREWS 11

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days...

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And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised...

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...who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

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...There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning...

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...they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

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FAITHFULNESS LED TO...

Red Sea split
Walls fell
Enemies conquered
Justice administered

Tortured
Imprisoned
Beat and flogged
Stoned to death

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HEBREWS 11

These were <u>all</u> commended for their faith.

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God is more pleased by our willingness to be faithful along the journey than He is concerned with our ability to produce a certain set of outcomes.

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FAITHFULNESS IS OUR SUCCESS

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