

When They Don't Think You Can

Jim Campbell · Spotlight Magazine · October 2025

Everyone loves the underdog story, right? The poor lovable “loser” that no one thought had it in them, yet somehow, somehow, through some incredible set of circumstances and one time shots, they got it done. I wonder about the story behind the cathartic movie ending scene.

Often people look at the story and their first reaction is “No way, that would never happen.”

I’m often one of them. What does it take for the underdog to push through that unknown and all that doubt and still believe? When they hit the harsh moments of self-doubt, those hinge points where the story ends or keeps on going. What do you do when they don’t think you can?

It happens all the time, even for the “winners” that seem to always get it right. Everyone comes to a point in time, where others doubt, the crowd isn’t cheering and people seem to be heading for the door. How do you push through? What gives you the confidence to do it?

For the Christ follower, there is hope. When we follow Jesus, the things we do should be in line with what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do. The writer of Proverbs says that “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” How does this play into self-confidence?

It doesn’t but it also does. When we follow Christ, our obedience is the central component. God has a plan with a part for us to play, so when we are following Christ, we are doing exactly what we are meant to do. Regardless of our abilities or failures, when God says move we should.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth that God has put a plan before us, and we can have confidence that God has a plan for us, and that we live by faith in who He is, not by the sight of who we are. When we are confidently following Christ, we can be confident that what He has called us to do, He will provide the wisdom, the words, the ability, and the circumstances that will produce the end result that He intends.

If you stay with Him, you just might be surprised at what is accomplished, and in fact, people might even say of you... “No way, that would never happen.” But you’ll know it did.