

**Christmas on the Small Screen: 'Twas The Night Before Christmas**  
**Dec. 1, 2019 Shelli Mosteller**

What's your favorite TV Christmas special of all time?

Rule Number One for a TV Christmas special: Christmas must be in peril.

Believing isn't always easy. The very idea of faith implies some sort of struggle, of letting go.

"You don't know as much as you think, because you only think with your head, so you have a lot of trouble believing in things you can't see or touch." (Father Mouse)

"The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see." (Hebrews 11:1-3, MSG)

"There's more to the world than meets the eye."

If we can't even understand how our own brains work, do you really think we have it all figured out?

"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!" (1 Corinthians 13:12, MSG)

"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?" (James 2:14 NLT)

Sometimes, taking the focus off of ourselves is enough to open our minds a little wider, leaving room for a little bit of faith to take hold.

"How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:21-24, NLT)

My crisis of faith wasn't believing Jesus is who he says he is; my crisis was believing that his grace could actually cover me.

My prayer is that you don't go into this Christmas season without at least a little bit of faith that God made you, that he loves you, that he knows you and still loves you, that he forgives you and that his grace really and truly can cover you.