

## **I have faith, bro**

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*"Faith is the assurance of what we hope for and the conviction of what we do not see." - Hebrews 11:1*

In Venezuela, where hope and faith are essential for facing daily challenges, the phrase "I have faith, bro" has emerged as a symbol of unity and resilience. Initially a meme in 2020, it gained popularity among supporters of the national soccer team during the World Cup 2026 qualifiers. This expression has transcended sports to become a powerful tool in the political realm.

The Gospels recount how Jesus could not perform miracles in his land due to the lack of faith among his people. This surprised the Son of God and underscores an essential truth: extraordinary and wondrous acts and the transformations they bring are deeply connected to people's faith.

Today, Venezuela stands at a crossroads similar to Jesus's, where believing in change is crucial for the future. In this context, María Corina Machado has emerged as a symbol of the hope and humility necessary for Venezuela's transformation.

María Corina, the leader of the democratic forces following the October 22 primaries, has inspired widespread confidence in the change that will lead the country to prosperity. Her tireless fight against tyranny mirrors the spiritual battle that requires faith in times of adversity. As Jesus taught, true faith is not about expecting easy miracles but deeply trusting in justice and truth despite difficulties.

Humility and weakness are concepts often rejected in politics, associated with defeat. However, as Saint Paul reminds us, true strength lies in overcoming fear and avoiding recklessness. María Corina Machado embodies this teaching, openly acknowledging her weaknesses and challenges, not as signs of failure but as opportunities to strengthen her faith and determination to say, "We will win".

Machado is acutely aware of her role in the fight for the country's freedom. Though significant, she understands that her part is just one piece of the more significant movement for change demanded by the people's sovereignty. Her humility in this challenge keeps her firm and focused on her goals.

Jesus, from his birth in a manger to his sacrifice on the cross, is the supreme example of power in weakness. Similarly, María Corina Machado's leadership is not based on brute force or conventional political power but on moral strength and integrity to face a spiritual struggle

between good and evil. Her ability to remain steadfast in her convictions despite persecution and difficulties testifies to her commitment to the principles of justice and freedom.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is an act of universal redemption, a reminder that true power resides in sacrificing for the good of others. María Corina has shown a similar willingness to sacrifice her personal safety and well-being for the country's future, demonstrating her deep commitment to collective redemption and welfare.

Moreover, the Eucharist, where Jesus manifests in the humble forms of bread and wine, teaches us that true greatness often lies in simplicity. Thus, Machado's leadership, frequently underestimated by her opponents, represents a powerful force.

María Corina Machado reminds us that in times of despair and struggle, this conviction that fundamental transformation is possible leads to change.

Three Sundays before the presidential election, the trust in María Corina marks the difference between despair and resilience. "I have faith, bro" is not just a phrase; it reflects the tenacity of the Venezuelan people, manifesting that this time, fear has ended, and unity has no other outcome but victory. This motto strengthens the social and cultural fabric of the nation that, despite adversities, continues to believe in a better future alongside Edmundo González and María Corina.

At the end of the day, "I have faith, bro" is more than a simple slogan; it has become a rallying cry, a reminder that together, Venezuelans can face any challenge on July 28.

We must proclaim our confidence in achieving the change the people yearn for with the same conviction with which we recite the Creed. In this unity, we will find the strength to overcome challenges and rebuild the country. María Corina Machado's leadership shows how faith, humility, and determination can pave the way for Venezuela's rebirth.

"I have faith, bro".