

# FAITH AND HOPE AND LUCK

## *Faith, Hope and Luck #1 :: Better Odds* {Andy Stanley}

### INTRODUCTION

How does faith *really* work? If your prayers aren't answered, is it because you didn't have enough faith? What does it mean to *lose* faith? Does your faith waver depending on your circumstances? Or is your faith supposed to be in something beyond your control, so that it isn't swayed by the circumstances of your life? Your faith is resting against something. Is it something that changes day to day, or does it endure through time?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When people say they have lost faith or that their faith came crashing down, what exactly does that mean? Have you ever lost faith?
2. What do you believe is the relationship between faith and answered prayer? Or is there a relationship between faith and prayer?
3. When have you misinterpreted God's voice/direction? When have you been surprised or frustrated by God's timeframe in answering your prayers?
4. Is it more likely that our behavior changes our beliefs or that our beliefs change our behavior?
5. Read Hebrews 12:2-3. These verses encourage us to rest our faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. How is faith that rests in Jesus Christ different from faith that rests on what's going on around us?
6. What does it look like to continue to have faith in the face of difficult and trying circumstances?

### THINK ABOUT IT

God never intended for us to rest our faith on what's going on around us. Eventually, the pleasures of life will sway us to change what we believe. The pressures and tragedies of life will cause us to doubt. But if our faith is placed in a relationship with Christ, it will endure. So what is your faith resting against? Is it circumstances? Or is it Jesus Christ?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, put your trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Start with a simple prayer: "God, I trust you today."

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:2-3