



Five Faith Catalysts #1 :: Part 1 {Andy Stanley}

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual growth doesn't follow a straightforward recipe: *Add a dash of prayer here. Two tablespoons of Bible knowledge there. Follow that with three quarts of regular church attendance. Voila, FAITH!*

That's really not how it works. Life is too messy for us to believe that there's a simple formula for faith. Then how does our faith grow? How do we get to the point where we are completely trusting God with every facet of our lives?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know people whose faith in God is so strong that at times you would describe it as *amazing*? What is it about them that makes you think their confidence in God is so strong?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-28. This parable follows the Sermon on the Mount. Why do you think Jesus concluded his sermon with this parable?
3. Have you ever applied a specific teaching of Scripture that, looking back, prepared you for an unexpected storm? Can you think of a difficult time you have faced that could have been avoided if you had applied the principles of Scripture?
4. Looking back, are there people you feel God providentially brought into your life at crucial times? Who? How did God use them?
5. Who in your circle of relationships would say YOU are someone God providentially dropped into their lives?
6. Based on this discussion, what advice would you give a friend who had lost faith or who would describe his or her faith as weak?

MOVING FORWARD

In the next two weeks, we'll discuss five catalysts that God uses to build that kind of faith. For this week, reflect on what have been the most faith-building events/relationships in your life. How have these things affected your confidence in God?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24