



By Andy Stanley

**Session 1 – “Simply Resistible”
(Intro & Chapters 1 – 5)
January 8, 2022**

Opening Prayer

Opening Statement/Question...

The decline of Christianity in America, the popularity of the New Atheists, and the meteoric rise of the *nones* underscore something that’s been true for generations but didn’t matter much until now. Modern, mainstream Christianity is fatally flawed. These flaws make it fragile and indefensible in the public square...

The way forward is not complicated, though some will find it controversial. It’s not original with me. It’s hidden in plain sight of the Gospels and the epistles of Paul. We know it *works* because it already *worked*. Once upon a time, a Jewish cult called *The Way*, against all odds, captured the attention and, ultimately, the dedication of the pagan world, both inside and outside the Roman Empire. So perhaps we need to hit pause on much of what we’re doing today – which isn’t working all that well anyway – and take notes from the men and women credited with turning the world upside down.

What do you think?

**Session 1 Video...
(Notes Section)**

- **Why doesn’t everyone in America go to church?**

- **What first-century Christians knew that we don't...**
- **Jesus as greater than the temple...**
- **But all the "cool kids" have kings...**
- **Purpose of the prophets**
- **Silence, and then the Messiah**

Follow Up Questions...

1. **What statements by Andy Stanley stood out to you? What emotion did it provoke?**
2. **If you the young woman in the story Andy told asked *you* why everyone in America doesn't go to church, what would you have said?**
3. **The young woman's questions bothered Andy. Would such a question (and the implications that come with it) bother you?**
4. **Andy made the assertion that indeed the church is so "*resistible*" today. What do you think he means? Do you see evidence to back this up?**

5. Why do people abandon their faith?

6. Andy said we need to “reclaim” what believers once had. What do you think the thing was that kept the early church from being derailed from such issues?

Scripture Backing...

1. Genesis 17:15-19...
2. Exodus 1:1-14...
3. Joshua 10:1-13...
4. 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1...
5. 1 Samuel 16:1-13...
6. 2 Samuel 7:1-29...
7. 1 Kings 10:26-11:6...
8. Ezra 6:1-12...
9. 2 Kings 17:7-17...
10. Malachi 3:1-18...

The distinguishing characteristic of the Jewish temple was not something it included that the competition lacked. Quite the opposite. The differentiating characteristic of the Jewish temple was something that it lacked that everyone else had. AN IMAGE...

It was the lack of an image representing their God. Images were strictly forbidden in Judaism...The notion of worshiping an image or idol is so foreign to us that an empty idol chamber doesn't strike us as odd. But in ancient times, the very opposite was true.

While it could be argued God was silent in the years of Israel's occupation and oppression, he certainly wasn't still.

***“Irresistible” Session 2 – Sunday, January 15 4:00 PM
(Covers Intro to Section 2 and Chapters 6 and 7)***