

Tucker, Ruth A. *Walking Away from Faith: Unraveling the Mystery of Belief & Unbelief*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.

Ruth Tucker delves into a topic that is usually avoided as much as possible. The topic is the phenomenon of people losing faith and giving up on Christianity, or even more, that God even exists. She is not debating the theological questions of whether or not it is possible to lose your salvation. She doesn't believe you can. But she shares stories because there is much to learn, especially in our own struggles to believe sometimes as well as ministering to others who are struggling. So, she rightfully warns the reader of saying "Well, he wasn't a Christian in the first place," moving on without a tinge of compassion. In doing this, she presents many examples of people from all walks of life and denominations, ancient and modern, who have struggled with the core issue of faith. It is nice to see a conservative talk about these real life situations where the lines appear fuzzier than when talking abstract theology in a classroom. For me, it made me more desperate to depend on the Holy Spirit for my own daily faith journey with Jesus. For others who daily struggle to believe (like the author), the book will encourage you to press on in the fight. Whether you struggle or not with faith, most likely you'll find yourself asking deep, penetrating questions that may trouble you, but ultimately make your faith stronger.

Level: Light-weight/Easy to Read

Theological Stance: Christian Reformed Church in North America

Rating: 7 ½

Recommend? Yes