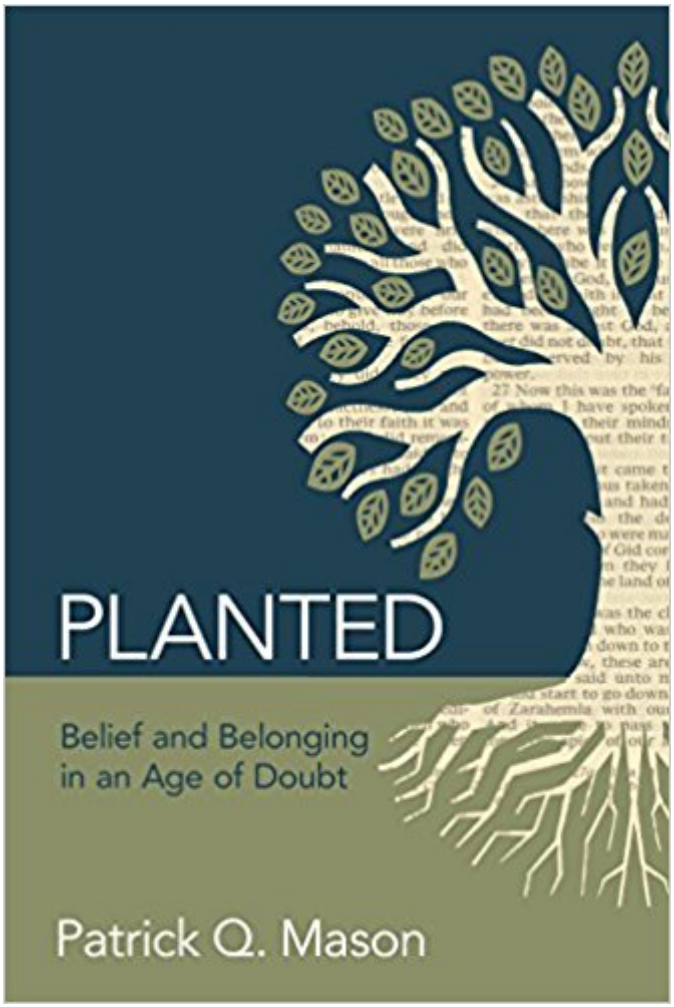
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Planted: Belief And Belonging In An Age Of Doubt



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Synopsis

For all its beneficial advances, our secular age has also weakened some people s ties to religious belief and affiliation. Latter-day Saints have not been immune to this trend. In recent years, many faithful Church members have encountered challenging aspects of Church history, belief, or practice. Feeling isolated, alienated, or misled, some struggle to stay. Some simply leave. Many search for a reliable and faithful place to work through their questions. The abundance of information online can make them feel frustrated. Planted: Belief and Belonging in an Age of Doubt offers people who struggle with questions and people who love those who struggle practical ways to stay planted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rather than attempting to answer every possible question or doubt, Planted presents an empathetic, practical, and candid dialog about the relationship of doubt and faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Patrick Q. Mason is the Howard W. Hunter Chair in Mormon Studies at Claremont Graduate University. He is author of The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South, which examined anti-Mormon prejudice against nineteenth-century LDS missionaries. He is a nationally recognized authority on Mormonism, with appearances in media outlets including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, ABC News, National Public Radio, and PBS.

Great book for everyone with an LDS Church connection and especially LDS leaders. Very

insightful regarding the societal context and internal history relative to those who have doubts about claims of certain Church leaders. Is very positive and sympathetic towards the Church and its leaders but balanced with an intellectually honest assessment of the skepticism of many members respecting leadership claims, and how best that can be overcome by transparency, understanding, compassion and persuasive and honest answers instead of the outdated pat answers that have failed to satisfy so many contemporary members dealing with the truth so easily accessed in the information age. Covering up, denial and rationalizations are rejected as they should be and the repentance of many LDS leaders at all levels in this respect is lauded. Those who most need this book are unfortunately the narrow minded leaders stuck in a time warp who think they can still succeed as benevolent dictators and control member's access to the truth by preaching extremely narrow minded fundamentalism and what is tantamount to a doctrine of leader infallibility. Unfortunately, those types will view this book as heresy to be avoided despite the fact it is published by Deseret Book jointly with the BYU Maxwell Institute. "Interventions" to jolt such old school leaders out of their state of denial is sorely needed if not releasing them from their leadership altogether. Not that I am holding my breath for the latter to happen in my own ward and stake, ha ha.

Well-written, informative, fairly short book that successfully assists Mormons combating doubts of the church to view those doubts from a much broader perspective. Mason points out that it can be all too easy to paint the whole church as a deceptive organization, reluctant to address legitimate questions about past history and past questionable statements and actions by former leaders. Mason effectively argues that if an objective person will understand both the huge cultural differences between now and the mid 19th century, as well as the fact that both past and current leaders and members make mistakes, sometime pretty big ones, it shouldn't negatively affect their basic faith of the truthfulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the truthfulness of the restoration and the Book of Mormon. My only negative impression is that he focuses on the fallibility of church leaders a little more stridently then is warranted leading the reader to draw the conclusion that they are continually sinning and regularly making mistakes in how they lead the church. I agree that mistakes are made occasionally, but generally not with deceptive or evil intent, Mountain Meadows Massacre, Priesthood ban the obvious exceptions.

This books has helped me to become more open to myself and others who experience doubt. If you want to stay in the church and need help wrapping your mind around things, this book may help. It

won’t have all the right answers to this or that problem, but it will show you new lines of thought and charity for those with whom you may misunderstand, whever you lie on the field of faith. I found the dialog and conversation within to be deeply open and refreshing, and I’m sure many of you will as well. Get this book!

Mason neither shoes away from difficult topics nor attempts to refute anti or ex-Mormon claims. Instead, he provides a powerful and thoughtful framework for engaging with our own doubts and those of our neighbors and loved ones. He invites us to listen to each other and to treat the church, its leaders, and its current and former adherents with kindness, dignity, and good faith. An excellent book.

Loved this book. Written to those undergoing faith transitions, but also for those who love and support them - meaning all of us!

Well written for clarity on many controversial topics in the church and how to process resulting doubts and confusion. I really enjoyed reading Planted and have recommended it to others.One point was not mentioned, which helps me tremendously when I am faced with issues that are hard to justify, and that is: though nothing or anyone in this world is perfect, even the ’mistakes’ or oversights that occur (whether by a prophet of God or any individual) are still within God’s plan. Knowing the end from the beginning as God does, no ’error’ is in vain. No ’mistake’ is not anticipated by the Lord. Nor is there any event so completely out of the realm of His power to control that the effects cannot ultimately be within His allowance. No matter how unjust or grievous we may judge a situation, not trusting that the final result is to the glory of God and suits His purposes, leaves us questioning and doubting and potentially being tossed on the winds of opinion and distrust. No matter how wrong or unfair or incongruent we may judge a circumstance, the bottom line is that: God Himself created this world, granted agency, and taught us correct principles so we can govern ourselves. Even when that agency is ’misused’ we can trust that God always knew it would ’be that way’ and uses the resultant effects to accomplish ’good’ greater than any of us is capable of conceptualizing. When good things go ’wrong’ or the innocent ’suffer’ I trust the Lord has a purpose that no one will argue with on Judgement Day.I have experienced my own unfair circumstances (parents divorce, my own divorce, loss of opportunity due to the unkindness of others, etc....) and have observed the suffering of innocent people (a physically disabled child who now struggles as an adult; also, as a missionary to Cambodia, I witnessed the chasm of disparity

between the typical citizen there compared to most lifestyles in the USA), and as I have prayed to reconcile these inconvruencies the Spirit whispers that none of what happens in this world blindsides God, He anticipated it all, and He can claim that it all falls within His plan for us.The real question is: Will we submit to all the will of the Lord? We don't have to love it, agree with it, or even understand it, but we clan trust that in the end it all makes sense and that the Lord allows it all to play out exactly the way that it does. For good purpose. And to His names glory.In other words, in the end, it is all good. Even when it doesn't appear that way today.

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