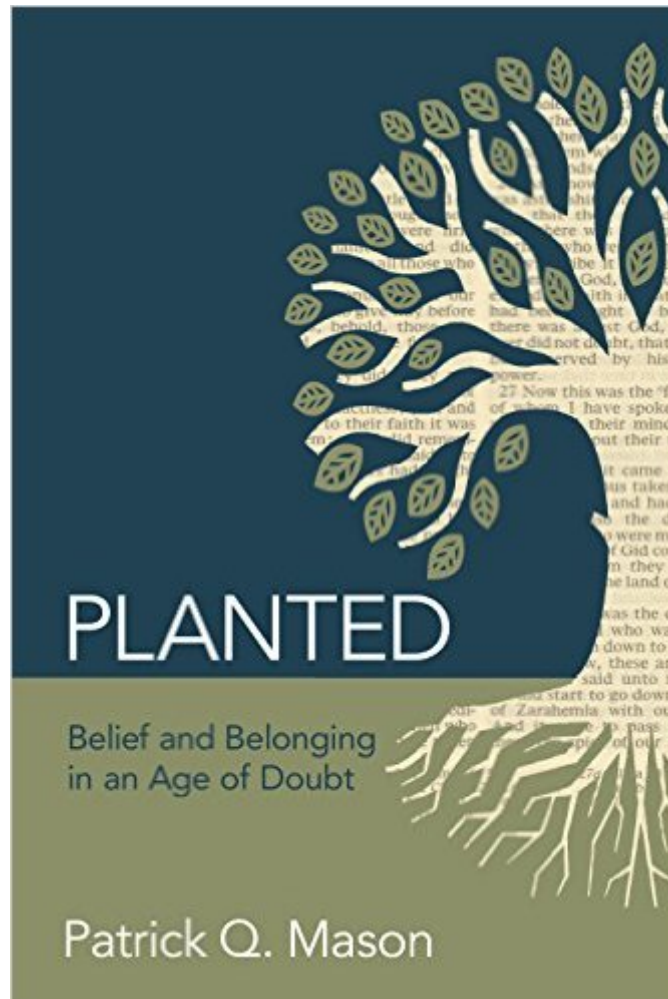


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# Planted: Belief And Belonging In An Age Of Doubt



## 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

It was a good book because it opened up communication between a faithful Mormon and her doubting spouse. It gave us something to talk about as it related to faith, God and the church. I would have liked to see more coping strategies for doubting members. The book started off strong, creating a setting in which the author related to doubters. But as the book progressed it seemed like the mantra was "look at me and all these other smart people who know the issues and yet believe, so...you can believe too!" It's not that simple. Ultimately the point was to remain a part of the church, but what I wish he had gotten at would have been something along the lines of "it is more important to stay a part of the church on your own terms if that's what will keep you in the church." It really

isn't about living the gospel according to the COUNSEL of church leaders. It's about living according to the dictates of your own conscience. The book could have been a home run had it focused more on that and ideas on how those with doubts can still make the church work for them. All in all it was still good, the faithful spouse really enjoyed it, and it got us talking about the topic which was something I had struggled to do in the early stages of my faith transition. So if you are doubting, this won't come off as a hit piece to get you to remain 100% faithful according to the church's terms. If you are faithful, this won't seem like a hit piece to make you doubt or heap various issues on you all at once. Anyone should be comfortable reading this and it will improve your mutual understanding of one another. Of course if the doubting spouse is looking for a way out, this probably won't be a good use of your time.

"Planted" is a great book addressed to LDS members struggling with questions and doubts, and to those called to minister to them. (I'm in the latter category.) In this secular age, it couldn't have come at a better time. Someone needed to write something like this, and it's good that Patrick Mason did. He is an excellent prose stylist who has a gift for metaphor and analogy to make key points. I especially loved his analogy of history as a construction zone. Mason establishes convincingly that prophets are human and fallible, but more importantly that this is to be expected. Canonized scripture teaches as much. So a church culture that covers up mistakes or that puts human volunteer leaders on a pedestal will only lead to disappointment when those with impressions of infallibility discover surprises from history. So how should one respond to a doctrinal or historical surprise? This is not a book that addresses all the greatest doctrinal or historical controversies point-by-point. It doesn't refute the irrefutable or sweep anything under the rug. Rather, Mason offers some ways of thinking and an approach, or strategy, for those with important questions or doubts to cope with them, to seek answers, and especially to hold on to the great good that Mormon life offers--a practical Christian life--without feeling compelled to abandon the whole thing. There is too much that's good, too much that's true, too much that's fulfilling, and there isn't really a better alternative. Of all the ways of life one can choose, even other good ones, no other one gets you more closely in emulation of Christ. Here's a thought that may sum up part of Mason's message.

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