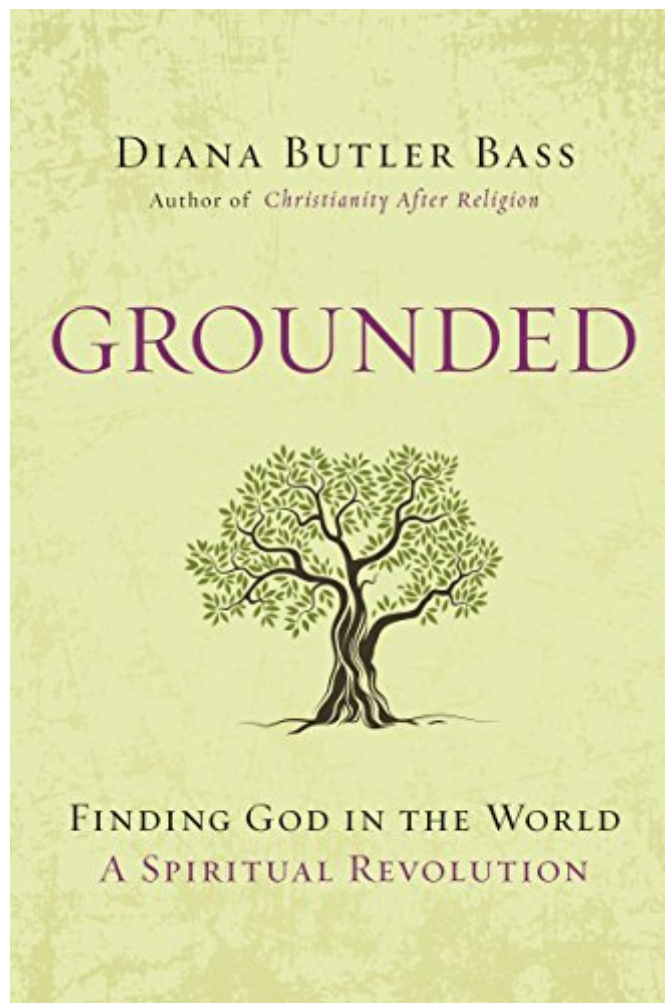




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Grounded: Finding God In The World-A Spiritual Revolution



Synopsis

The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. Diana Butler Bass, leading commentator on religion, politics, and culture, follows up her acclaimed book *Christianity After Religion* by arguing that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. This shift, from a vertical understanding of God to a God found on the horizons of nature and human community, is at the heart of a spiritual revolution that surrounds us and that is challenging not only religious institutions but political and social ones as well. *Grounded* explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons. Faith is no longer a matter of mountaintop experience or institutional practice; instead, people are connecting with God through the environment in which we live. *Grounded* guides readers through our contemporary spiritual habitat as it points out and pays attention to the ways in which people experience a God who animates creation and community. Bass brings her understanding of the latest research and studies and her deep knowledge of history and theology to *Grounded*. She cites news, trends, data, and pop culture, weaves in spiritual texts and ancient traditions, and pulls it all together through stories of her own and others' spiritual journeys. *Grounded* observes and reports a radical change in the way many people understand God and how they practice faith. In doing so, Bass invites readers to join this emerging spiritual revolution, find a revitalized expression of faith, and change the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Step 1: Buy Diana Butler Bass's new book *Grounded: Finding God in the World* - A Spiritual Revolution. Step 2: Buy Kleenex. I'll be honest: I'm having an unexpectedly emotional reaction to this book. I can't seem to get more than a handful of pages without my eyes inexplicably leaking. One minute I'm reading this gorgeous and profound prose and then next minute the pages are splattered with tear drops. There are two possible explanations for this. Either I might need to see a therapist, or Bass's book really is a spiritual revolution. Honestly, I think it's the latter. Because it's not a sad and weepy book. It doesn't pull on emotional heartstrings with cheap schmaltz. It's just that sometimes the soul responds to deep beauty and deep truth in ways words cannot express but the body, in its unappreciated wisdom, can. Clearly, *Grounded* touched something deep within me that has long been dormant and buried. For me, it has been an awakening. And that's what makes the book so difficult to review. It's hard to review a book that is so fundamentally undoing me and remaking me. It's hard to review a book that is renewing my soul. I can't review a spiritual awakening. But I can share what it was like to read it. The book is divided into two parts - the natural world and the human world, but both are maps for our modern world and our modern spirituality. Each chapter is artfully constructed, evocative, and profoundly insightful. In fact, it can be difficult to finish a chapter in one sitting because Bass, quietly and unobtrusively, invites readers to ponder, to meditate, and to reflect on God, themselves, and the world.

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