



# **Rooted: The Hidden Places Where God Develops You**

*Banning Liebscher*

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## **Rooted: The Hidden Places Where God Develops You** Banning Liebscher

You were born to make an impact in this world and you know it. You feel it deep down in your bones. Apathy is your nemesis and your hunger to change the world keeps you up at night. But no matter how deep this hunger growls, we can only make a meaningful impact if we are rooted in Jesus. And here's the thing:

**God is not interested in developing your vision first.  
He is interested in developing you.**

In *Rooted*, Banning Liebscher takes us to the life of David to show how God expands our root system in the hidden places before leading us to where we all desire to go, the visible world. It was in a field of prayerful devotion, a season of serving, and a cave of community that God prepared David for his crown, the same way God prepares us. Take a look at your own life. Are you embracing God's process, the sometimes painstaking and maddening process? When we can release ourselves to God we will find that we can thrive while He develops us, rather than succumb to discouragement.

Whatever your age or season of life, it takes immense courage to slow down enough to let God grow a root system in your life so that you can bear fruit that remains. You are where you are because God has planted you there. Discover what it looks like to embrace His process so you can do what He has called you to, change the world.

*From the Trade Paperback edition.*

## **Rooted: The Hidden Places Where God Develops You Details**

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## **From Reader Review Rooted: The Hidden Places Where God Develops You for online ebook**

### **Caroline says**

Wow this book is SO GOOD. Like straight preachin most of the time. I'm a college student and I highly recommend this to any college students who are eagerly trying to follow God's will for their lives. I often find it hard to be patient in this process, and this book describes the situation I'm in and really describes the value of seasons of preparation before we can see the fruit that God wants us to bear. It also tells HOW we should establish our roots. It was well scripturally based. Thank you Banning, you truly have a gift, and this book is such an encouragement to me!!!

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### **Kaylee Dolat says**

Left me challenging my walk with God and relationship with Him. I analyzed different aspects of what could be holding me back from developing a closer relationship with Him and it boiled down to a lot of ugly things in my past that I had let alter my view.

I found myself underlying powerful lines that I continuously reflect on.

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### **Brandi Davis says**

Intimacy. Service. Community. These are the three soils in which Banning Liebscher says that we are planted in order to grow root systems in God that lead to last fruit. He used the life of David, a man who had a firm and solid relationship with God and also bore fruit that still lasts to this day, as his primary example throughout the book.

He did a great job of conveying the importance of each of these soils as well as supporting each of his point with Scripture, which is so helpful and important for me as I grow up in Christ. Because of this book, I am better able to understand how and why each of these three soils is vital to my growth and essential if I want to fulfill the calling that God has placed on my life. As someone that is planted in the soil of intimacy at the moment, I'm excited to move into the soils of service and community in His time.

I would definitely recommend this book to anybody that wants insight into God's development process in their lives.

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### **Shaun Lee says**

I enjoyed this book and read it in one seating. There's no heavy typological or foreshadowing of Christ here. What we get instead are plenty of lively stories from Banning's (and family's) life and ministry. He attempts to communicate a simple message - to be rooted intimately with God, in service to him and in the context of a community.

I was constantly engaged with the unfolding thesis of the book, and was kept hooked from the get go. The plentiful sharing of the real-life memories and experiences (especially the painful/embarrassing ones) helped Banning connect with a young reader like myself. I appreciated the authenticity and vulnerability thoroughly. I'd probably increase the 4 stars to 5 if more emphasis (and pages) was placed on the necessity of the believer actively seeking to be rooted in the 3 soils (Intimacy, serving, community).

I'm actually conflicted as to whether I wished he had gone in greater depth for each of the bible passages he cited. After wrestling for a moment, I think he made the right choice in the touch-and-go methodology in citing Scripture. (Because the more reformed would probably not even pick up a book by a Jesus Culture pastor in the first place!) As I reflect on what this main lines of propositions Banning attempted to convey, I am reminded of James Bryan Smith's Good and Beautiful trilogy. This book (Rooted) would serve as a superb appetitiser (should a small group or church leader decide to ease the flock to journey together with the Good and Beautiful series).

I received this book from Crown Publishing Group's Blogging for Books program in exchange for this review.

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### **Nicole says**

Banning is revealing in his writing of this book, writing at one point that, "Maybe it's because my top love language is words of affirmation, but it kind of irritated me when Jesus said, 'Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him?'" (pg. 148) Notice how Banning admitted he was irritated with the words of Jesus? Most would be ashamed to admit that they were irritated with Jesus, but Banning admits it anyways. It makes his story easier to relate to, more real.

Throughout this book, we read personal examples from Banning's own life that contribute to what he's trying to tell us. Instead of expecting us to read what would amount to little more than a Christian textbook, Banning explains in a simple, understandable way. The simplicity is not so much as to be insulting, but just enough that it can contribute to the newly-saved's walk with Christ, or to someone who has been saved for a long time.

Banning included many Biblical references; nearly every page has at least one reference. I really appreciated that, because then I could read the passage for myself if I had any questions about his interpretation.

The only thing I did not like about this book was that when Banning references the Bible, he tends to use several translations; you could read three different references and each would be a different translation. It would be better if Banning stuck with one translation – switching translations each time says to me that he's looking for the verse to say what he wants it to say, rather than a more direct (trustworthy) translation that may not say it the way he wants.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in encouragement in their walk with Christ. There were several instances where I personally found encouragement reading this. In one section, God used this book to speak to me about something I had been praying about and give me assurance about His will. I think there's something written in here for every Christian – or even for someone considering Christianity.

Disclaimer: I received this book from Blogging for Books for free in exchange for my honest review. All opinions are my own.

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### **Ken Bruggeman says**

This was my first experience with Banning's ministry and I didn't leave disappointed. Reading this spoke to many of the things that I feel on a regular basis in my walk with God and the direction that He is leading my life. The deeper I got into the book, the more I wanted to know because it was all resonating with me. I am currently in the rooting process with God, and in a sense I suppose we always will be, but this book was a perfectly timed read.

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### **Faith says**

"The only way (God) can build this root system of abiding connection is by taking us through a process that asks again and again "Do you trust me?" Every time we say, "I trust you," our root system grows. That's how we thrive as he prepares us to bear lasting fruit." ~Banning Liebscher

For me, this quote was the heart of the book "Rooted." The image of roots, stretching out underground, hidden from all eyes, feeding and anchoring the luxurious upper growth, is a fine one to help us think about the Christian life. We need those roots, often developed in secret, before we can have the visible foliage and desirable fruit.

This book is Banning's meditations on getting roots. He believes that our roots grow best in three "soils," the soil of intimacy, the soil of service, and the soil of community. This means that our relationships matter, and our work matters. To state the obvious- what we do and how we do it shapes our souls.

Banning will do a better job explaining his key concepts and lessons than I will, so let's say this- if you're interested in some accessible thoughts about how a life-vision develops and grows, then try this book. You'll pick up some wisdom, and be reminded that inner growth is what fuels all great actions, and that every risk you take to love somebody and live faithfully is worth it.

I thank Waterbrook Multnomah for providing my review copy.

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### **Amy Langmaack says**

I've known since last summer that God was giving me some direction for where my life was headed and what God wanted me to do with it. But I've also spent the last several months since then working hard to build the skills that I need to move forward. I've had to learn new things, create new habits and thought patterns, and dig deep into scripture to learn as much as I can before I move forward into what God is calling me to do.

Along that journey, reading has been an integral piece of the puzzle for me. And I just finished Rooted: The

hidden places where God develops you by Banning Liebscher. When I signed up to read this book and review it, I didn't know who Liebscher was, but I was drawn to the book, and the subtitle. I was intrigued by the idea of creating a hidden place with God.

Since we are on the heels of the "war room" phenomenon, I greatly appreciated Liebscher's approach to creating that hidden, secret place with God. It wasn't a specific location, although he pointed out that certainly helps, but he acknowledged that we can create a hidden place wherever we are. This was freeing for me because of how much I travel. Even if I have created the habit and sacred space in my own home, I need to also be able to find this space anywhere that I am.

Rooted focuses on finding your way as God continues to develop the vision he has given you and how to grow deep roots in God.

That's another huge piece of the puzzle for us. One thing Eric said to me as we started this blog was that it was all about roots going deep. This book serves as a road map to help you find that place with God, and trust the process that may have a different timeline than your own.

While I may know the direction my life is headed, I cannot fulfill that calling and vision, without building those roots down deep in the soil of intimacy, serving and community. Rooted helped me think about where I am on this journey in developing my roots so that I can continue to flourish and grow into the vision that God has given me.

I received a copy of this book from Blogging for Books in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Guang Hao Chong says**

A simple yet profound book for every Christian that has ever dealt with questions such as 'Am I where God wants me to be?', 'Is this for me?'. Though the book does not provide any answers, reading it would definitely bring you hope and a change of perspective to the situation. Love it!

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### **Yeing Yeing says**

This book addresses the how in bearing fruit in a Christian's life - basically developing one's "root" system and developing in the soils of intimacy with God, serving and community. So many quotes I want to highlight cos they are truths and good reminders!

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### **Carrie Ann says**

Very practical. If I had read it 10 years ago I might have found it more helpful but everything he wrote is pretty much basic stuff so it was a little humdrum for me. Being rooted as a Christian requires reading the word, spending time alone with God, community, prayer, etc. It felt a bit like 25 sermons mashed together, but I would definitely recommend it to new Christians.

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## **Melissa says**

I have had the great honor and privilege to have Banning as my youth pastor and overseer in my 2nd and 3rd of School of Ministry, now I have the honor to review his book Rooted. He truly is walking example of his book. Rooted really ministered and encouraged me in the season I am in right now in my growth and ministry. To be honest it really gave me courage. It was such a reminder to me to keep steady, stay on course, and remember what is truly important. It's not what usually man looks at. I'm going to be real this isn't a light read, it's real. It's about what it truly means to follow Jesus. What it looks like and how it feels.

As for Banning's writing style it's is crisp and to the point, but what kicks it out of the park is his revelation of scripture and illustrations. They bring to life Biblical truths in a way you take to heart and apply to your life. He opens with several chapters that bring you into 3 sections; Soil 1: Intimacy, Soil 2: Serving, Soil 3: Community. He makes it clear that we need to cultivate those 3 soils in our life if we want to be rooted and have fruit that will last.

Overall an incredible book that I would recommend to any believer. Thank you for writing it Banning! I received an advance reading copy for my honest review.

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## **Mandy says**

YASS.

I waited two years to read this and tried to start it about ten times. This time, it was the right time. Man, to hear his confirmations of the stirrings I kept feeling and the importance of community are exactly what I wanted to hear about TODAY, not two years ago.

This book is simple and straightforward, gentle but firm. It's so good. Stop trying to be your own hero; your scriptural grounding will take you further and higher than you could ever go on your own. The roots must go much deeper and wider than you think.

It's up to you!

Read this book!

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## **Ariel says**

This was recommended by a friend, knowing I was going through some growing pains in my ministry. It's a great book with practical wisdom on the proper way to grow rooted in God, before we rush headlong into ministry without the root system connected to the Source that will truly sustain us for what we're growing to become.

Really loved it, and I'm sure I'll recommend this!

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**Kiran Rai says**

I'm giving this three stars, but a very positive three. The book is really easy to read and has lots of great insights into living a thriving Christian life. I like that there is a strong call to action, with simple, practical steps. From my perspective, there appears to be a lot of truth in here. It's a light read, so as a literary piece, it feels more like a relaxed sermon than one that would go down as a classic or a must-read. It's very personable, so I would recommend for Christians wanting some accessible, practical wisdom on how to build a solid foundation for years to come.

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