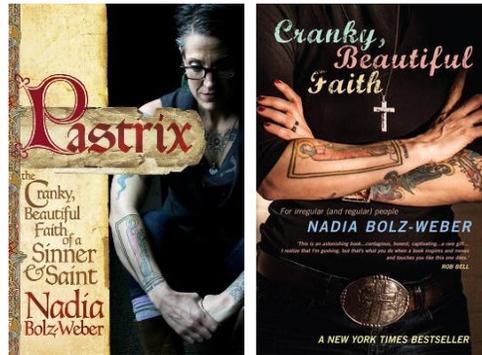


## ***Cranky, Beautiful Faith***

By Nadia Bolz-Weber  
(Canterbury Press, 2013)  
206 pages

I have accidentally read this book twice – it was first published by Jericho Press under the title *Pastrix* which I read a year or two ago. I didn't realize that this was the publication of the same book, for audiences in the United Kingdom.



However, having said that, I am glad I read the book twice. I think it is a profound biography of the spiritual journey of someone who has genuinely wrestle with issues of faith and life. This book describes the journey from a conservative Christian home to a life of rebellion to a discovery of a genuinely liberal experience with God and grace.

There is a warning I need to share before I go any farther: If you are easily offended by off-color language, genuine struggles with childhood visions of an angry God, gracious acceptance of alternative lifestyles and a willingness to laugh at one's self and church, this book is NOT for you.

But if you are willing to engage the struggles of a real faith and if you can guffaw at our own perceptions of ourselves, our culture and our churches and if you are willing to open your mind to new and different thoughts about the Christian faith, then this book is definitely for you!

Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran church-starting pastor from the Denver area who has started the Church House for All Sinners and Saints. From her tattooed arms, her recover from addiction and her non-traditional view of theology and church, she presents the claims of Christ in a new and fresh way – for the one who genuinely struggles with church and faith.

I would agree with the quote by Ian Mobsby found on the back cover of the book. He says, “In this book Nadia unpacks a gutsy and fully lived experience of Christianity. Its bluntness and humour are fresh and encouraging. She offers a beautiful and enchanting view of the love and power of God in the context of our broken, nihilistic and uncertain world. This is a ‘must read’ for those fed up with smooth platitudes and the sentimentality of some religious writing.”

Perhaps the reason I enjoyed the book, resonated with the stories and envied the progressive thought of the book is because I am one of those fed up with the platitudes I have heard in church all of my life and the sentimentality I have read in much that passes as evangelical Christian thought in these days. It is eye-popping, mind-blowing, thought altering and a meaningful journey to the center of the Christian faith.

I heartily recommend the book to any who wish to experience an exciting, irreverent, inclusive and joyous look at the real Christian experience!