

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, bless us in our time together
so that we will be doing your will
in everything we do.

Help us to put aside our pride and ego
that seeks only what we want,
so that we can be filled with your Spirit
that leads us to want what you want.

Hear us in silence
as we center ourselves in you,
and ask you to guide us this evening...



GERALD MAY, *ADDICTION AND GRACE*

Instead of leading to absolute quietude and serenity, true spiritual growth is characterized by increasingly deep risk-taking. Growth in faith means willingness to trust God more and more, not only in those areas of our lives where we are most successful, but also, and most significantly, at those levels where we are most vulnerable, wounded, and weak....

In truth, authentic faith choices can never be justified on any basis... We can never adequately explain why we make such choices. This is another reason they feel so risky. We are completely responsible for them, as for all our choices....

The power of grace flows most fully when human will chooses to act in harmony with divine will.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What thoughts or points stand out to you in this?
- How does this passage apply to being a church?
- What does this passage say to you about the nature of faith and leadership?