



Opening Prayer

Eternal God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

You have called us to be spiritual leaders
of your body, this church.

Help us to surrender

our hearts and minds to you;

To humbly seek your voice;

To boldly do your will;

To compassionately share your love;

To faithfully be your servants;

And to reverently lead your people

Bless all that we do,

So that we can do what you bless.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Brennan Manning, *Ruthless Trust*

- The way of trust is a movement into obscurity, into the undefined, into ambiguity, not into some predetermined, clearly delineated plan for the future. The next step discloses itself only out of a discernment of God acting in the desert of the present moment. The reality of naked trust is the life of a pilgrim who leaves what is nailed down, obvious and secure, and walks into the unknown without any rational explanation to justify the decision to guarantee the future. Why? Because God has signaled the movement and offered it his presence and his promise.

- Who and what are [what we might call] the [Christian] ragamuffins? The unsung assembly of saved sinners who are little in their own sight, conscious of their brokenness and powerlessness before God, and who cast themselves on his Mercy. Startled by the extravagant love of God, they do not require success, fame, wealth, or power to validate their worth. Their spirit transcends all distinctions between the powerful and powerless, educated and illiterate, billionaires and bag ladies, high-tech geeks and low-tech nerds, males and females, the circus and the sanctuary.

Reflection Questions:

- *What stands out to you in these quotes?*
- *Reflecting on these quotes, what principles for life would you say are central?*
- *What do these quotes tell us is important as leaders of the church?*