

**OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

We are here to serve you, opening our hearts and minds to your guidance.

Help us to have the meekness of mind

to seek your thoughts over our own thoughts;

to have the humility of heart to seek one will—Your will;

to have the Serenity of the Spirit to let your peace be our peace,  
no matter what transpires.

Help us to be your servants in this time.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Christ taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven...*

**J. Heinrich Arnold, *Discipleship***

Never forget that an act of love to one's fellowman is the only important act of the day. Everything else is of no value before God and may even tear us from him or separate us from our brothers. How strongly Jesus impresses this on our hearts in his prophecies about the Last Judgment! The question is never whether we are well-organized or act correctly, but whether we feed the hungry, take in strangers, clothe the naked, or visit those who are sick or in prison—in other words, whether we act out of love and compassion. Let us never pass by the need of another or forget the words and actions that strengthen love.

**Questions for Reflection:**

- ❖ What thoughts or insights stand out to you in this passage?
- ❖ What does this quote say to us about both what's important in a church, and how we are to lead a church?