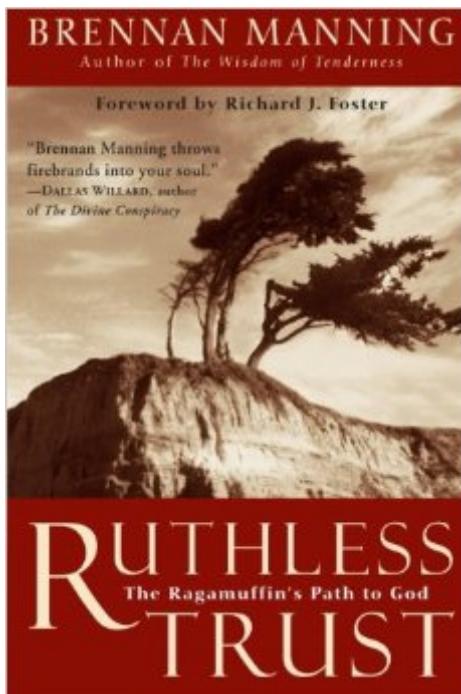


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Ruthless Trust: The Ragamuffin's Path To God



Synopsis

In his sequel to The Ragamuffin Gospel bestselling author Brennan Manning shows how true and radical trust in God can transform our lives

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Most people who are acquainted with Brennan Manning have read The Ragamuffin Gospel. The Ragamuffin Gospel showers us with the love of God, in ways that most of us have never experienced before. In the Ragamuffin Gospel, we begin to accept ourselves, but more importantly, to accept that God truly does love and accept us as we are. But then what? I know that I am loved by God, and I am beginning to love myself a little because of that fact. But what do I do when darkness overtakes my life, when unjust things happen, or when I become apathetic about the Christian life? This book sends us deeper into the world of a loving God, deeper into the involvement of that God in our lives. One of the main lessons I have taken from it is that if I am to trust God when things get difficult, I need to focus on His attributes daily when things are going well. The Word tells us in so many ways that God loves, protects, and sustains us, that He is attentive and aware of our needs and hardships. This book will get you thinking more about the attributes of your God. Manning writes that we cannot will ourselves to trust God. Trusting God comes from years of learning of Him, of seeing Him act, and of reading His Word. This kind of trust is ruthless, because we begin to trust God even when the storms overtake us. It's ruthless because it appears to be crazy, and we may even feel crazy when we trust God radically. It took me a while to get into this book. Some points

seem overemphasized and go on for pages, but they are effective in the end. The concepts in this book will ring true in your spirit. You probably know them, but have never put them into words.

Brennan Manning writes in Ruthless Trust that "trust is our gift back to God." Throughout the book, he identifies reasons why we may have problems trusting God and many more reasons why God is completely trustworthy. Through autobiographical accounts, stories, quotes, and by drawing from his extensive learning and his tried and tested relationship with God, Manning targets the reader's relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Manning drives the point home that we are loved unconditionally and enormously by God. He emphasizes that we are loved as we are today with all of our weaknesses, imperfections and mistakes. He writes that what gives God pleasure more than anything in creation is a believer trusting that he or she is loved. Manning's thrust encourages the reader to experience the presence of the Lord in the present. He affirms to us that we do not need to worry about the past or fret the future because our Soul's Sufficiency is with us in the now. One of the obstacles to trusting God that people face, says Manning, is that we have a distorted perception of God. In this book, he presents a true image of the welcoming, gentle God who died on the cross to be with us. Manning attacks some of the false images of God that have been presented by the religious over the years. At one point in the book, he summarizes his belief regarding this distortion of God's image: Thirty-seven years of pastoral experience with Catholics, mainline Protestants, evangelicals, fundamentalists, Seventh Day Adventists, blacks, whites, Asians, and Hispanics tell me unmistakably that many a believer's perception of God is radically wrong. (72) Manning effectively leads the reader to comprehension of a true image of our God.

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