

the ragamuffin gospel

the ragamuffin gospel is a groundbreaking Christian book written by Brennan Manning that continues to influence spiritual seekers and believers worldwide. This comprehensive article explores the core message of the ragamuffin gospel, its origins, key themes, and impact on modern Christianity. Readers will discover what makes this gospel unique, how it challenges traditional religious thinking, and why it appeals to those who feel marginalized by organized religion. The article will also delve into the life of Brennan Manning, the significance of grace in the ragamuffin gospel, and the reasons behind its enduring relevance. Additionally, practical ways to apply its teachings in daily life will be discussed, offering valuable insights for anyone interested in deepening their spiritual journey. Whether you are new to the ragamuffin gospel or seeking a deeper understanding, this article provides a thorough and accessible guide to one of the most influential spiritual texts of the past few decades.

- Understanding the Ragamuffin Gospel: Origins and Overview
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Understanding the Ragamuffin Gospel: Origins and Overview

The ragamuffin gospel stands as a transformative work in Christian literature, offering a fresh perspective on faith, grace, and human brokenness. First published in 1990, the book challenges conventional religious expectations by emphasizing God's unconditional love for all, especially those who feel unworthy or spiritually inadequate. The term "ragamuffin" refers to individuals who see themselves as spiritually poor and in need of grace—a central concept that resonates throughout the text. The ragamuffin gospel appeals to those disillusioned by legalism, judgment, or exclusion in traditional church settings. It invites readers to embrace authenticity, vulnerability, and a deeper relationship with God, free from the confines of perfectionism or performance-based religion. The book's wide reach and enduring popularity highlight its significance in shaping contemporary Christian thought.

Brennan Manning: The Author Behind the Ragamuffin Gospel

Brennan Manning, a former Franciscan priest and author, is the visionary mind behind the ragamuffin gospel. His own life experiences—marked by struggle, addiction, and recovery—deeply influenced his writing and message. Manning's authenticity and willingness to confront his failures made his teachings relatable to many readers. He believed that acknowledging one's brokenness is the first step toward experiencing the fullness of God's grace. Through his work, Manning sought to dismantle the barriers of shame and self-condemnation that often keep people from accepting divine love. His other writings and public speaking engagements further solidified his reputation as a compassionate advocate for the marginalized. The ragamuffin gospel is perhaps his most famous work, embodying the themes of radical grace and the embrace of imperfection.

Core Themes and Messages of the Ragamuffin Gospel

The ragamuffin gospel is built on several foundational themes that continue to resonate with readers. Its message centers around the idea that God's love is not earned but freely given. This challenges the widely held belief that religious performance or moral perfection are prerequisites for acceptance. Instead, the book emphasizes humility, honesty, and the courage to face one's own vulnerabilities.

- **Universal Grace:** God's grace is available to all, regardless of background or failures.
- **Authenticity:** True spiritual growth begins with acknowledging one's weaknesses and need for grace.
- **Freedom from Legalism:** The ragamuffin gospel rejects rigid religious rules in favor of a relationship with God.
- **Inclusion:** The message is particularly aimed at those who feel left out by institutional religion.
- **Hope and Healing:** The gospel offers hope for healing and transformation, even for those who have hit rock bottom.

These themes have made the ragamuffin gospel a source of comfort and inspiration for countless individuals seeking a more compassionate and inclusive understanding of faith.

Grace: The Heart of the Ragamuffin Gospel

Grace lies at the very heart of the ragamuffin gospel. Unlike traditional doctrines that may emphasize judgment or conditional acceptance, Manning presents grace as an unearned gift from God. This radical view of grace assures believers that they are loved just as they are, not as they should be. The book repeatedly underscores that no amount of effort, goodness, or religious observance can secure God's favor. Instead, grace is accessible to everyone, especially those who admit their need. This teaching encourages readers to let go of self-reliance and to embrace dependence on divine mercy. The concept of grace in the ragamuffin gospel has influenced countless sermons, counseling sessions, and personal spiritual journeys, redefining how many approach their relationship with God.

The Impact and Legacy of the Ragamuffin Gospel

Since its publication, the ragamuffin gospel has left a lasting mark on Christian communities and individual lives. It has been widely praised for its honesty, compassion, and transformative power. Churches, small groups, and recovery ministries often use the book as a resource for teaching about grace and acceptance. Its influence extends beyond religious boundaries, speaking to anyone who has grappled with shame, guilt, or feelings of inadequacy. The ragamuffin gospel has sparked discussions about the true nature of Christian faith, prompting many to re-examine their beliefs and practices. Its legacy is evident in the ongoing popularity of the book, the formation of "ragamuffin" groups, and the continued relevance of its message in a world hungry for authenticity and hope.

Applying the Ragamuffin Gospel in Daily Life

The principles found in the ragamuffin gospel are not just theoretical—they offer practical guidance for everyday living. Embracing the book's teachings can lead to a more compassionate, authentic, and grace-filled life. Readers are encouraged to let go of perfectionism, judgment, and fear of failure. Instead, they learn to accept themselves and others with humility and kindness.

1. **Practice Self-Compassion:** Recognize your own limitations and treat yourself with the same kindness you would offer to others.
2. **Embrace Vulnerability:** Share your struggles honestly within trusted relationships, fostering deeper connections.
3. **Reject Legalism:** Focus on a genuine relationship with God rather than rigid adherence to rules.
4. **Extend Grace:** Offer love and understanding to others, especially those who feel excluded or marginalized.
5. **Prioritize Inner Transformation:** Seek personal growth and healing through faith rather

than external achievements.

These practical steps align with the core message of the ragamuffin gospel, encouraging readers to live out grace in tangible ways.

Criticisms and Controversies Surrounding the Ragamuffin Gospel

While the ragamuffin gospel has received widespread acclaim, it has also faced criticism from certain theological circles. Some argue that its emphasis on grace could lead to a disregard for moral responsibility or obedience. Others believe that the book downplays the importance of repentance and transformation. However, supporters of the ragamuffin gospel contend that recognizing one's need for grace naturally leads to genuine repentance and change. The debates surrounding the book reflect broader discussions within Christianity about the balance of grace and truth. Despite these controversies, the ragamuffin gospel remains a powerful voice for inclusion, compassion, and the transformative power of God's love.

Q: What is the main message of the ragamuffin gospel?

A: The main message of the ragamuffin gospel is that God's grace and love are unconditional and available to everyone, regardless of their past mistakes, failures, or shortcomings. It emphasizes that people do not need to earn God's acceptance through religious performance or moral perfection.

Q: Who wrote the ragamuffin gospel and why is it significant?

A: The ragamuffin gospel was written by Brennan Manning, a former Franciscan priest. The book is significant because it challenges traditional religious views and emphasizes authenticity, vulnerability, and grace, making it accessible to those who feel marginalized or unworthy.

Q: How does the ragamuffin gospel define grace?

A: In the ragamuffin gospel, grace is defined as an unearned and freely given gift from God. It assures believers that they are loved and accepted as they are, not as they should be, and encourages letting go of self-reliance in favor of trusting divine mercy.

Q: Who is considered a "ragamuffin" according to the

gospel?

A: According to the ragamuffin gospel, a "ragamuffin" is someone who recognizes their spiritual poverty and need for grace. It refers to anyone who feels broken, inadequate, or unworthy but is willing to accept God's unconditional love.

Q: How can someone apply the ragamuffin gospel in daily life?

A: Individuals can apply the ragamuffin gospel by practicing self-compassion, embracing vulnerability, rejecting legalism, extending grace to others, and focusing on inner transformation through authentic faith.

Q: What impact has the ragamuffin gospel had on modern Christianity?

A: The ragamuffin gospel has significantly influenced modern Christianity by encouraging a focus on grace, inclusion, and authenticity. It has inspired countless individuals and groups to re-examine their understanding of faith and spirituality.

Q: Are there criticisms of the ragamuffin gospel?

A: Yes, some critics argue that the ragamuffin gospel's emphasis on grace may lead to a lack of moral accountability or ignore the need for repentance. However, supporters maintain that genuine acceptance of grace leads to true transformation.

Q: Why does the ragamuffin gospel appeal to the marginalized?

A: The ragamuffin gospel appeals to the marginalized because it offers hope, acceptance, and love to those who feel excluded or judged by traditional religious structures. Its message reassures them that they are valued and welcomed.

Q: What are some practical examples of living out the ragamuffin gospel?

A: Practical examples include forgiving others, being honest about personal struggles, supporting those in need, rejecting judgmental attitudes, and fostering inclusive communities.

Q: Does the ragamuffin gospel encourage religious rule-

following?

A: No, the ragamuffin gospel rejects rigid religious rule-following in favor of developing a genuine and personal relationship with God based on grace, acceptance, and love.

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The Ragamuffin Gospel: Finding Grace in the Cracks

Are you tired of feeling like you don't quite measure up? Do you struggle with the weight of perfectionism, constantly chasing an unattainable ideal of spirituality? Then you might find solace and understanding in Brennan Manning's *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. This powerful book isn't about achieving spiritual perfection; it's about embracing your imperfections and finding grace in the midst of your brokenness. This blog post will delve into the core tenets of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, exploring its message of unconditional love and radical acceptance, and how it can revolutionize your understanding of faith and self.

H2: Understanding the "Ragamuffin"

Before we explore the Gospel, let's understand the metaphor. A "ragamuffin" is a term for a ragged, unkempt child, someone who is outwardly flawed and imperfect. Manning uses this imagery to represent us – flawed, broken, and desperately in need of grace. The beauty of the *Ragamuffin Gospel* lies in its radical acceptance of this reality. It doesn't shy away from our struggles, our sins, or our failures. Instead, it embraces them as integral parts of our human experience. It's a gospel not for the spiritually perfect, but for the spiritually broken – the ones who feel most distant from God.

H2: The Heart of the Ragamuffin Gospel: Unconditional Love

At the heart of Manning's message is the unwavering, unconditional love of God. This isn't a love based on our performance, our piety, or our adherence to religious rules. It's a love that embraces us

exactly as we are, in all our messiness and imperfection. This radical acceptance is the cornerstone of the Ragamuffin Gospel. It's a love that doesn't demand perfection, but offers forgiveness and grace abundantly. It's a love that sees our potential even when we can't see it ourselves.

H3: Moving Beyond Performance-Based Spirituality

Many of us have grown up with a performance-based understanding of faith. We strive to be "good enough," to check all the boxes on the religious checklist. But Manning argues that this approach ultimately leaves us feeling inadequate and discouraged. The Ragamuffin Gospel offers a refreshing alternative: a faith based not on our efforts, but on the boundless grace of God. It's a liberating message that frees us from the relentless pressure of self-improvement and allows us to experience the joy of being loved unconditionally.

H2: Embracing Vulnerability and Authenticity

Manning encourages a radical honesty and vulnerability in our relationship with God and others. This means acknowledging our flaws, our struggles, and our brokenness without shame or fear. It's about letting go of the masks we wear and embracing our authentic selves. This vulnerability is not weakness; it's a powerful act of surrender, a pathway to deeper intimacy with God and others. Authenticity is where true healing and transformation begin.

H3: The Power of Confession and Forgiveness

The Ragamuffin Gospel emphasizes the importance of confession and forgiveness. Confession isn't just about listing our sins; it's about a deep, heartfelt acknowledgment of our brokenness and a sincere desire for change. And forgiveness isn't just about forgiving others; it's about forgiving ourselves. This process of confession and forgiveness is essential for healing and experiencing the transformative power of God's grace.

H2: Finding Freedom in Surrender

The ultimate message of The Ragamuffin Gospel is one of surrender. Surrendering to God's love, surrendering to our own imperfections, and surrendering to the healing process. This surrender is not weakness, but an act of profound trust and faith. It's in this surrender that we find true freedom and peace. It's the release from the burden of trying to be someone we're not and embracing who

God created us to be.

H2: The Ragamuffin Gospel Today

The message of The Ragamuffin Gospel resonates deeply even today, in a world that often prioritizes outward appearances and superficial success. In a culture that values perfection and self-reliance, Manning's message of unconditional love and acceptance offers a refreshing counterpoint. It's a message that continues to inspire countless individuals to find hope, healing, and a deeper relationship with God.

Conclusion

The Ragamuffin Gospel is not a self-help book; it's a spiritual awakening. It invites us to embrace our imperfections, to find grace in our brokenness, and to experience the boundless love of God. It's a message of hope for all those who feel like they don't quite measure up, a reminder that we are loved unconditionally, exactly as we are. This book is a gift to the broken hearted and the weary soul.

FAQs:

1. Is The Ragamuffin Gospel only for Christians? While rooted in Christian theology, the themes of unconditional love, self-acceptance, and forgiveness are universal and resonate with people of all faiths or no faith.
2. Does the book offer practical steps for spiritual growth? While not a step-by-step guide, the book inspires reflection and encourages a deeper relationship with God through vulnerability and surrender.
3. Is this book only for people struggling with deep issues? No, the message of grace and unconditional love benefits anyone seeking a more authentic and fulfilling relationship with themselves and God.
4. How does The Ragamuffin Gospel differ from other religious teachings? It emphasizes God's unconditional love over performance-based spirituality, fostering a radical acceptance of human imperfection.

5. Where can I find The Ragamuffin Gospel? It is widely available online and in most bookstores, both new and used.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Ragamuffin Gospel* Brennan Manning, 2008-08-19 Are you bedraggled, beat-up, burnt-out? Most of us believe in God's grace—in theory. But somehow we can't seem to apply it in our daily lives. We continue to see Him as a small-minded bookkeeper, tallying our failures and successes on a score sheet. Yet God gives us His grace, willingly, no matter what we've done. We come to Him as ragamuffins—dirty, bedraggled, and beat-up. And when we sit at His feet, He smiles upon us, the chosen objects of His "furious love." Brennan Manning's now-classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it—simple honesty—has changed thousands of lives. Now with a Ragamuffin's thirty-day spiritual journey guide, it will change yours, too. Includes a 30-Day Spiritual Journey Guide! "Brennan Manning does a masterful job of blowing the dust off of shop-worn theology and allowing God's grace to do what only God's grace can do—amaze." -Max Lucado, Bestselling author of *The Gift for All People*

the ragamuffin gospel: *All Is Grace* Brennan Manning, John Blase, 2011-10-04 It has been over twenty years since the publication of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, a book many claim as the shattering of God's grace into their lives. Since that time, Brennan Manning has been dazzlingly faithful in preaching and writing variations on that singular theme – "Yes, Abba is very fond of you!" But today the crowds are gone and the lights are dim, the patches on his knees have faded. If he ever was a ragamuffin, truly it is now. In this his final book, Brennan roves back his past, honoring the lives of the people closest to him, family and friends who've known the saint and the sinner, the boy and the man. Far from some chronological timeline, these memories are witness to the truth of life by one who has lived it – *All Is Grace*.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Ruthless Trust* Brennan Manning, 2010-10-12 In his sequel to *The Ragamuffin Gospel* bestselling author Brennan Manning shows how true and radical trust in God can transform our lives. Manning, beloved author and spiritual teacher, shows us how trust in God can transform our lives and open us up to deeper experiences of grace and love. In *Ruthless Trust*, he turns his focus from furious love to radical trust, revealing the ways in which trust renews our faith and help us grow.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Ragamuffin Gospel Visual Edition* Brennan Manning, 2005-09-19 God's Grace: Too Graphic for Words Would you rather watch a movie than read? Do magazines and the Internet draw you in because there's so much catching your eye? Then you'll love *The Ragamuffin Gospel, Visual Edition*. Brennan Manning's original bestselling message comes to life through the provocative photographs, illustrations, and other attractive images throughout the book. Easy to flip through, toss in a backpack, and share with others, this book helps you experience on a whole new level the tremendous, life-changing truth that God loves you, no matter what you do or do not do. His grace is too great to be summed up in words, best understood when experienced. Respond now to the Father's furious love...it's hot on your trail! *Story Behind the Book* Brennan Manning's bestselling *The Ragamuffin Gospel* found a home in the hearts of thousands of "ragamuffins"—God's precious flock of believers who were bedraggled, beat-up, and burnt-out. But the message of God's powerful love and grace, constant no matter what you do or do not do, is for everyone! To convey the reality of this life-changing message in an entirely new way, the visual edition was created. Audiences with shorter attention spans, youth, and image-driven people everywhere will engage in the attractive display of this simple message.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus* Brennan Manning, 2004-02 Undertakes the impossible task of explaining the two very different sides of the Son of God—his explosive power and his incredible tenderness—and calls us to adopt the astonishing life of a committed disciple.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Abba's Child* Brennan Manning, 2015-04-10 Are you struggling to accept God's love? We've bought into the lie that we are worthy of God's love only when our lives

are going well. But when life begins to fall through the cracks and things become less-than-perfect, we scramble to present a good front to the world—and to God. God longs for us to deeply believe and know that He loves us and accepts us as we are. He calls for us to remove our mask and establish an honest and deep relationship with Him. When we are our true selves, we can finally claim our identity as His own—Abba’s child. Let go of the pressure of an impostor lifestyle and lean into the life-changing wonder of a truly loving relationship with God. Abba’s Child will light the way to freely accepting your belovedness and being renewed by the reassurance of our Father’s deep care for you—regardless of how perfect your life isn’t. “Honest. Genuine. Creative. God hungry. These words surface when I think of the writings of Brennan Manning. Read him for yourself—you’ll see what I mean!” —Max Lucado, New York Times bestselling author “I pray that Brennan Manning and the timeless voices . . . in this book might offer you hope. May they remind you that you are loved by the Father-Creator Himself. May they sing and speak into your life against the voices that tell you otherwise.” —Jon Foreman, lead singer of Switchfoot

the ragamuffin gospel: The Prodigal Brennan Manning, Greg Garrett, 2013-11-05 From the inspirational author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel* comes a powerful contemporary retelling of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jack Chisholm is “the people’s pastor.” He leads a devoted and growing megachurch, has several best-selling books, and a memorable slogan, “We have got to do better.” Jack knows how to preach, and he understands how to chastise people into performing. What he doesn’t know is anything about grace. This year, when it comes time for the Christmas sermon, the congregation at Grace Cathedral will look to the pulpit, and Jack will not be there. Of course, they will have seen plenty of him already—on the news. After an evening of debauchery that leads to an affair with his beautiful assistant, Jack Chisholm finds himself deserted with chilling swiftness. The church elders remove him from his own pulpit. His publisher withholds the royalties from his books. Worst of all, his wife disappears with their eight-year-old daughter. But just as Jack is hitting bottom, hopeless and penniless, drinking his way to oblivion, who should appear but his long-estranged father, imploring his prodigal son: “Come home.” A true companion piece to *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, *The Prodigal* illustrates the power of grace through the story of a broken man who finally saw Jesus not because he preached his greatest sermon or wrote his most powerful book, but because he failed miserably. Jack Chisholm lost everything—his church, his family, his respect, and his old way of believing—but he found grace. It’s the same grace that Brennan Manning devoted his life to sharing: profound in nature and coming from a God who loves us just as we are, and not as we should be. “A wonderfully written story that is as entertaining as it is thought provoking.” —Publishers Weekly, starred review “. . . the consummate final tale. What they have created is the Ragamuffin at his best, full of hope, full of love, and finally, full of belief in the goodness of God.” —Phyllis Tickle, founding editor, Religion Department, Publishers Weekly “Brennan Manning’s last work continues the powerful message of grace and forgiveness that has transformed so many lives. *The Prodigal* will transform you too.” —Mark Batterson, New York Times best-selling author of *The Circle Maker*

the ragamuffin gospel: The Signature of Jesus Brennan Manning, 2004-07-06 *The Signature of Jesus* challenges the gospel of cheap grace and calls the church to radical discipleship. With passion and boldness, author Brennan Manning invites readers to risk living life as Jesus lived—committed to simplicity, purity of heart, and obedience to the gospel. As a radical alternative this book is offered to Christians who want to live by faith and not by mere “religion,” for those who recognize that many of the burning theological issues in the church today are neither burning nor theological; who see Christianity neither as a moral code or a belief system but as a love affair; who have not forgotten that they are followers of a crucified Christ; who know that following him means living dangerously; who want to live the gospel without compromise; who have no greater desire than to have his signature written on the pages of their lives. “Behold,” Jesus proclaims, “I stand at the door and knock.” You may have already met him at the door...but do you truly know him? Have you been transformed by His furious, passionate, unexplainable love? Join Brennan Manning, the bestselling author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, on a personal journey to experience Christ’s love and live with His passion.

the ragamuffin gospel: Reflections for Ragamuffins Brennan Manning, 2003-01-01 This collection comprises a daily meditation for every day of the year, taken from Brennan Manning's writings. In biblical terms, ragamuffins are the poor in spirit, those who were little in their own sight, those who were conscious of their nakedness and poverty before God and who thus cast themselves without reservation on his mercy. Manning believes that this is the spirit that God looks for in his people.

the ragamuffin gospel: A Glimpse of Jesus Brennan Manning, 2010-10-12 Beloved Christian writer Brennan Manning has long been illuminating the transforming power of God's constant love for us in his bestselling books. Now he identifies self-hatred as the reason that so many of us seem unable to accept this incredible, unchanging love. By clearly examining and understanding Jesus' life, we can put self-hatred behind us forever and truly be transformed in the ways God intended.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Furious Longing of God Brennan Manning, 2009-03-01 Imagine a stormy day at sea, your ship yielding to a relentless wind, pummeled by crashing waves, subject to the awesome force of nature. A force that is both fierce and majestic. A power that is nothing short of furious. Such is God's intense, consuming love for His children. It's a love that knows no limits, and no boundaries. A love that will go to any lengths, and take any risks, to pursue us. Renowned author and ragamuffin Brennan Manning presents a love story for the brokenhearted. For those who are burdened by heavy religion. For those who feel they can never measure up. It is a provocative and poignant look at the radical, no-holds-barred love of our Heavenly Father. It is a message that will forever change how you view God.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Gift for All People Max Lucado, 2011-08-24 The Gift for All People is a celebration of God's gift of salvation wrapped in a collection of inspirational stories. These stories will help Christians comprehend and treasure the assurance of their salvation and will help non-Christians realize and embrace the gift of abundant, eternal life in Jesus Christ. The concluding story, written especially for this book, urges readers to give their lives to Jesus Christ and shows them how to do so. This book will provide Christians with a unique, warm, and attractive presentation of the gospel to give to non-Christian family or friends. More than anything, God wants you to be with Him. The God who designed your world, the God who placed you on the planet, simply wants you home with Him. And to bring you home, He offers you a gift...the gift of eternal salvation. My prayer is that through the pages of this book you'll see his gift like you've never seen it. If you've already accepted it, you'll thank Him again. And if you've never accepted it, I pray that you will. For it's the gift of a lifetime. A gift for all people.

the ragamuffin gospel: Ragamuffin Prayers, 2000 Ragamuffin Prayers is a new collection of honest and searching personal thoughts on prayer by some of Christian music's most reflective artists and authors. Readers will be encouraged in their own prayer journeys by the Ragamuffin Band, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Brennan Manning, Kevin Smith of DC Talk, and other popular musicians and writers as they share insights on prayer and how God uses our weaknesses and imperfections to accomplish His will. This beautifully designed book, a complement to the album of the same name, is enriched by the stunning photograph of Ragamuffin Band member Jimmy. Whether given as a gift or kept as a personal treasure, Ragamuffin Prayers is sure to lead readers further along the pathway to the heart of God. The Ragamuffin Band, the backup band of late singer/songwriter Rich Mullins, recorded a collection of Rich's songs under the title of The Jesus Record with guest vocalists Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Phil Keaggy, and others. This record has sold 240,000 copies in less than a year. Since then, the Ragamuffins, with special guests, have toured widely.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Mother Heart of God Trudy Beyak, 2013-04-23 In this age of chaos, God gives courage and comfort. Trudy Beyak, an award-winning journalist, interviewed 50 global leaders of faith: Ruth Graham, Dr. Francis Collins, Danae Dobson, Dr. Raymond Damadian, the MRI inventor; the Vatican, Paul Young, Gary Chapman, and many others, about the nature of God. They reveal fascinating new insights! When no one cares, and you feel all alone, the maternal mercy of God comforts your soul, "as a mother comforts," a precious loved one. Ruth Graham

explains: "When God created men and women to be like him, women are half the picture." What a gift, then, it is to be a mother! The "maternal instinct" to nurture others, corresponds to the nature of God, as our Comforter. Women no longer need ask: Dear Lord: Who am I? Discover 50 exclusive interviews that will transform a woman's life - and men, as well. And there's more. The Mother Heart of God is a journalist's compelling spiritual journey, a personal invitation to every man and woman to experience the love of God that brings hope and healing to every soul.

the ragamuffin gospel: A Diary of Private Prayer John Baillie, 2014-10-07 The classic collection of personal prayers updated in modern, accessible language.

the ragamuffin gospel: Dear Abba Brennan Manning, John Blase, 2014-09-25 Completed shortly before Manning's recent death, this book lays out a month of honest prayers to God -- whom Manning affectionately calls Abba -- in a devotional format designed to guide and inspire the reader's own prayers. The morning and evening entries each present a Scripture passage, a select excerpt from Manning's contemporary spiritual classics, and a concluding Dear Abba prayer.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Importance of Being Foolish Brennan Manning, 2010-10-05 In the eyes of the world, Jesus was a fool. He did not abide by the rules of his day; the people he associated with were shunned by society; his Sermon on the Mount reads like a primer on being left behind, stepped on, and ignored. In order for us to truly be the people Jesus wants us to be, we too must learn to become foolish. Becoming a Christian is not a magical enterprise by which we are automatically transformed into better people. We must train to become who God intends us to be. In *The Importance of Being Foolish*, bestselling Christian author Brennan Manning teaches us how to think like Jesus. By reorienting our lives according to the gospel we may appear to be fools in the eyes of the world, but Manning reveals that this is exactly what Jesus wants. In a powerful exploration of the mind of Christ, Manning reveals how our obsession with security, pleasure, and power prevents us from living rich and meaningful lives. Our endless struggle to acquire money, good feelings, and prestige yields a rich harvest of worry, frustration, and resentment. Manning explores what Christ's mind was truly focused on: finding the Father, compassion for others, a heart of forgiveness, and the work of the kingdom. Coming from the gentle yet compelling voice of Brennan Manning, *The Importance of Being Foolish* is a refreshing reminder of the radical call of Jesus and the transforming love of God.

the ragamuffin gospel: Wisdom of Accepted Tenderness Brennan Manning, 1978

the ragamuffin gospel: The World as I Remember It Rich Mullins, 2010-06-30 Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left behind a timeless legacy. As a columnist for *Release* magazine for nearly six years, Rich shared his musings on faith and life, conveying the wonder and awesomeness of his God with the same depth and simplicity that characterized his music. *The World As I Remember It* is a collection of these personal writings, complemented by striking photography and some of Rich's most memorable quotations. This one-of-a-kind collection will be cherished not only by his fans, but by anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment. Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left a legacy of deep gratitude, humility, and delight before the dace of an awesome God. Here you'll find a treasury of Rich's engaging, intimate reflections on faith and life. Revealing the spiritual meaning behind the simplest events, Rich muses about subjects ranging from fear to contentment, childlikeness to emptiness, from war to music. This is a feast for anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment. As you savor the arresting ideas of one of modern Christianity's most ardent pilgrims, you'll find your adoration focused on your Creator, Redeemer, and Inspirer. Story Behind the Book For nearly six years, Rich shared his thoughts about faith and life through his columns in *Release* magazine. When his first column was published in the spring of 1991, the editors introduced him this way: Rich not only has a lot to say...he also has a unique way of saying it. And although Mr. Mullins could easily fit into that intellectual bohemian-type category (we're sure he could hold his own in a discussion with any theologian or philosopher of old), most often, his message is a straightforward call back to the principles of faith. He's a poet, a scholar, a gentleman, and yes, just a little bit off-center. But that's why we like him, and are pleased to welcome Rich to *Release* with

this regular column. We trust you'll love him and what he has to say as much as we do... Rich had a way with words, and a collection of his writings seems an appropriate tribute to a man who has been referred to as the greatest songwriter of our time.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Wisdom of Tenderness* Brennan Manning, 2010-10-12 A Stirring Invitation to Accept God's Unfathomable Tenderness

the ragamuffin gospel: *Above All* Brennan Manning, 2003 A character study of Jesus Christ inspires readers to accept Jesus' love and live a righteous life.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Pastor's Kid* Barnabas Piper, 2020-01-06 Advice on how to care for pastors' kids and allow them to find their own faith and identity. Pastors' kids are often burdened by others' expectations, but there is a wonderful solution, both at home and in the church: grace. In this revised, refreshed version of Barnabas Piper's best-known book, the author candidly shares his own experiences as son of pastor and bestselling author John Piper, offering a challenge to our churches and to the families at their very heart: how to care for pastors' kids and allow them to find their own faith and identity. Foreword by John Piper.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Choose and Choose Again* J. Kevin Butcher, 2016-10-01 In *Choose and Choose Again*, the reader will encounter story after story of different people, most of whom are from Hope Community Church of Detroit, where Pastor Butcher has been sharing the healing love of God for thirteen years. They represent men and women, African American, Caucasian, Latino, and Asian, urban and suburban, professional types and prostitutes, clergy and addicts, drunks and lawyers and convicts—wounded human beings who have found themselves empty, dying, and longing to be filled. The stories are not only about their own healing and restoration but also about how the love of God heals. Butcher hopes that readers will find before them a path of healing that they feel compelled to embrace. He begins with his own story of emptiness and despair, and his journey to healing, but the ultimate power of his message is that this healing journey is for anyone who is willing to own his or her emptiness and hold one's heart out to God, who is desperately longing to love each person all the way home.

the ragamuffin gospel: *New Seeds of Contemplation* Thomas Merton, 2003 A collection of thirty-nine short essays in which Thomas Merton examines what true contemplation is and how it can impact one's spirituality.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The God Who Loves You* Peter Kreeft, 2009-09-03 God's love is the subject of Peter Kreeft's imaginative and thoughtful book (a revised and updated version of his book *Knowing the Truth of God's Love*). With unusual clarity, Kreeft points out that the man or woman who begins to glimpse the God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Lover of our souls, will never be the same. He describes Scripture as God's love story and then tells why divine love is the answer to our deepest problems and the fulfillment of our deepest desires. Posing the hard questions about love that rankle the heart, Peter Kreeft never settles for easy answers. He exposes today's superficial attitudes about love to lead people to a deeper understanding of what it means to be loved by God, addressing these issues and many more.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Dirty Glory* Pete Greig, 2016-10-20 Winner - Book of the year, CRT awards Foreword by Bear Grylls Following on from the success of *Red Moon Rising*, which tells the story of the first five years of the 24-7 prayer movement, *Dirty Glory* describes stories of transformation, from a walled city of prostitution in Mexico to the nightclubs of Ibiza, and invites people to experience the presence of God through prayer. An autobiographical adventure story spanning four continents, describing one of the most exciting movements of the Holy Spirit in our time, *Dirty Glory* will inspire and equip those dissatisfied with the status quo and passionate about the possibilities for spiritual and social transformation in our time.

the ragamuffin gospel: *One of the Few* Jason B. Ladd, 2015-11-10 A US Marine fighter pilot explores life's important questions as he prepares for combat, searches for truth, and wages spiritual warfare during his mission to become a better husband and father. Jason B. Ladd grows up in a military family with loving parents but spends his young life filled with spiritual apathy. Ladd enters the US Marine Corps, becomes a fighter pilot, and sees combat in Iraq before life events align

to nudge him into profound spiritual inquiry. Digging deep into his quest for truth, he realizes the art and science of fighter pilot fundamentals can help him on his journey. Filled with stories that contrast his spiritual apathy with his post-Christian worldview passion, *One of the Few* is the compelling life story of a spiritual seeker engaged in a thrilling profession combined with a strong, reasonable defense of Christianity. For fans of Ravi Zacharias, Lee Strobel, and Frank Turek, Ladd's remarkable journey shares the transformative power of faith during a time when belief in God is dismissed and religious liberty in the military is attacked.

the ragamuffin gospel: ESV Heirloom Bible, Heritage Edition (Horween Leather, Brown) , 2021-09-16 Created with the highest-quality materials, the ESV Heirloom Bible, Heritage Edition is an elegant Bible printed and bound with superior craftsmanship by Royal Jongbloed in the Netherlands. This Bible features European Bible paper, an extra smooth sewn binding, art gilding, and multiple ribbon markers. Other features include a single-column layout, large font size, and line matching. Available in a beautiful, high-quality cover, it is packaged in an elegant presentation box. Manufactured with care and precision, the ESV Heirloom Bible, Heritage Edition is guaranteed to last a lifetime. The leather for this specialty Bible is produced by skilled craftsmen at the Horween Leather Company in Chicago, renowned for their high-end leathers for over 100 years. Constructed with the highest grade of cowhide, Horween Bibles feature a deep brown cover that is beautifully rugged, flexible, and develops character over time. Size: 5.5 x 8.25 9.25-point Lexicon Black-letter text High-quality Bible paper Simple, straightforward layout with generous margins Single-column format Full-color maps 4 ribbon markers Full-color maps Footnotes Line matching Smyth-sewn binding Lifetime guarantee The standard trade discount for ESV Heirloom editions is 40% off any quantity

the ragamuffin gospel: A Fragile Stone Michael Card, 2009-08-20 *A Fragile Stone* explores the dynamic life of the apostle Peter, revisiting well-known passages and revealing unexpected insights. Author Michael Card sketches out Peter's life, showing how the impetuous fisherman of the Gospels was transformed into the pivotal leader of the early church.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Rabbi's Heartbeat Brennan Manning, 2014-02-27 As Abba's children, we need only to define ourselves through His Son, just as the apostle John did—as one beloved by God. Through this timeless devotional, author and speaker Brennan Manning brings you from a lukewarm, distant faith to being close enough to lean against Jesus—the Great Rabbi—and listen to His heartbeat. Adapted from the best-seller *Abba's Child*, this daily reminder of the Father's relentless love will help you accept your identity as a child of God as you grow in spiritual formation.

the ragamuffin gospel: Made For More Hannah Anderson, 2014-03-20 Who are you, really? In an uncertain world, we crave the security of knowing exactly who we are and where we belong. But too often as women, we try to find this safety in our roles and relationships, our professional accomplishments, or our picture-perfect homes. And as we do, our souls shrink smaller and smaller. It's because these things aren't made to hold us. In *Made for More*, Hannah Anderson invites you to re-imagine yourself, not simply as a set of roles and categories, but as a person destined to live in the fullness of God Himself. Starting with our first identity as image bearers, Hannah shows how Jesus Christ makes us people who can reflect His nature through our unique callings. She also explores how these deeper truths affect the practical realities that we face as women—how does being an image bearer shape our pursuit of education, our work, and even our desire for holistic lives? Because you are made in God's image, you will only ever know yourself—only ever be yourself—as you find your identity in Him. Find it now.

the ragamuffin gospel: The Hammer of God Bo Giertz, 2005 A classic Swedish novel about love, faith and spiritual renewal told in the form of a mystery novel.

the ragamuffin gospel: Searching for God Knows What Don Miller, Donald Miller, 2010-05-24 With equal parts wit and wisdom, New York Times bestselling author Donald Miller invites you to reconnect with your faith. Miller shares what he's learned firsthand--that our relationship with God is designed to teach us about redemption, grace, healing, and so much more. *Searching for God Knows What* weaves together timeless stories and fresh perspectives on the Bible to capture one

man's journey to discover an authentic faith that's worth believing. Along the way, Miller poses his own questions about faith, religion, and community, asking: What if the motive behind our theology was relational? What if our value exists because God takes pleasure in us? What if the gospel of Jesus is an invitation to know God? Maybe you're a Christian wondering what faith you signed up for. Or maybe you don't believe anything and are daring someone to show you a genuine example of genuine faith. Somewhere beyond the self-help formulas, fancy marketing, and easy promises, there is a life-changing experience with God waiting for you--it just takes a little bit of searching. Praise for *Searching for God Knows What*: Like a shaken snow globe, Donald Miller's newest collection of essays creates a swirl of ideas about the Christian life that eventually crystallize into a lovely landscape...[He] is one of the evangelical book market's most creative writers. --Christianity Today If you have felt that Jesus is someone you respect and admire--but Christianity is something that repels you--*Searching for God Knows What* will give you hope that you still can follow Jesus and be part of a church without the trappings of organized religion. --Dan Kimball, author of *The Emerging Church* and Pastor of Vintage Faith Church, Santa Cruz, CA For fans of *Blue Like Jazz*, I doubt you will be disappointed. Donald Miller writes with the wit and vulnerability that you expect. He perfectly illustrates important themes in a genuine and humorous manner...For those who would be reading Miller for the first time, this would be a great start. --Relevant

the ragamuffin gospel: *50 Ways to Pray* Teresa Blythe, 2006 A book of prayer helps and exercises designed to invite readers into new ways of being with God. Intended for all of us who thought we knew only one way to pray, the book presents a wide variety of prayer types, gleaned from centuries-old practices of Christian spiritual leaders and mystics, and updated for easy use by modern readers.

the ragamuffin gospel: *All Things New* John Eldredge, 2017-09-26 New York Times bestselling author John Eldredge offers readers a breathtaking look into God's promise for a new heaven and a new earth. This revolutionary book about our future is based on the simple idea that, according to the Bible, heaven is not our eternal home--the New Earth is. As Jesus says in the gospel of Matthew, the next chapter of our story begins with the renewal of all things, by which he means the earth we love in all its beauty, our own selves, and the things that make for a rich life: music, art, food, laughter and all that we hold dear. Everything shall be renewed when the world is made new. More than anything else, how you envision your future shapes your current experience. If you knew that God was going to restore your life and everything you love any day; if you believed a great and glorious goodness was coming to you--not in a vague heaven but right here on this earth--you would have a hope to see you through anything, an anchor for your soul, an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God (Hebrews 6:19). Most Christians (most people for that matter) fail to look forward to their future because their view of heaven is vague, religious, and frankly boring. Hope begins when we understand that for the believer nothing is lost. Heaven is not a life in the clouds; it is not endless harp-strumming or worship-singing. Rather, the life we long for, the paradise Adam and Eve knew, is precisely the life that is coming to us. And that life is coming soon.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Patched Together* Brennan Manning, 2010-01-01 *Patched Together* is a very special story to me. It is, in many ways, my story... These words begin this rich story from Brennan Manning, the beloved author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Follow the character Willie Juan, a lonely boy who finds belonging in the eyes of the mysterious Man of Sorrows, through three distinct seasons of his life: morning, noon, and night. Each season is filled with memorable characters, significant wounds, and lingering questions. More than a charming tale, *Patched Together* is a remarkable story in which readers will see themselves. Willie Juan and readers alike will be connected by the thread that ties all the patches together--the everlasting truth that in the end, only Abba's love remains.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Thoughts In Solitude* Thomas Merton, 2011-04-01 Thoughtful and eloquent, as timely (or timeless) now as when it was originally published in 1956, *Thoughts in Solitude* addresses the pleasure of a solitary life, as well as the necessity for quiet reflection in an

age when so little is private. Thomas Merton writes: When society is made up of men who know no interior solitude it can no longer be held together by love: and consequently it is held together by a violent and abusive authority. But when men are violently deprived of the solitude and freedom which are their due, the society in which they live becomes putrid, it festers with servility, resentment and hate. *Thoughts in Solitude* stands alongside *The Seven Storey Mountain* as one of Merton's most uring and popular works. Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk, is perhaps the foremost spiritual thinker of the twentiethcentury. His diaries, social commentary, and spiritual writings continue to be widely read after his untimely death in 1968.

the ragamuffin gospel: *The Boy who Cried Abba* Brennan Manning, 1997 Willie Juan, a lonely orphan boy, struggles with the pain and rejection of his daily life. Then he meets a mysterious and wise Medicine Man who helps him realize that through the unconditional love of God he can learn to love and accept himself and others and find the path from condemnation to freedom. A lyrical parable by the author of *THE RAGAMUFFIN GOSPEL*.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Heal Us, Emmanuel* Doug Serven, 2016-05-05 Most Christians would say they believe all people are made in the image of God and are equal before him. They would say red, brown, yellow, black, and white, they are precious in his sight. But do they have any friends of another race? Is there anyone at their church who does not look like them? Does this matter to God? The majority of American Christians do not have significant relationships with anyone who does not look like them, which makes them susceptible to cultural blind spots and less effective as ambassadors for biblical justice. The thirty church leaders who contributed to *Heal Us, Emmanuel* desire racial reconciliation, representation, and supernatural unity in all the churches of Christ.

the ragamuffin gospel: *Turn and Live* Robert N. Wilkin, 2019-05-02 Over thirty years ago, Bob Wilkin wrote his dissertation on the role of repentance and salvation at Dallas Theological Seminary (1983-1985). Then in 1990 his mentor challenged him to reconsider his view. Seven years later, after study and meditation on ten key passages, Bob changed his mind about repentance and salvation. This book asks and answers the following questions: -What is the meaning of repentance?-What do key New Testament texts tell us about repentance?-Who needs to repent?-What does repentance accomplish?-Is repentance a condition for everlasting life?-Does fellowship with God require ongoing repentance? *Turn and Live* is the product of over thirty years of intense study and meditation. Through this book you will discover the power of repentance.

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