

AUGUSTINE DAY BY DAY

MINUTE MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY
TAKEN FROM THE WRITINGS
OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

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by
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Illustrated



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CONTENTS

Preface	5	July	99
January	9	August.....	115
February	24	September	130
March.....	38	October	145
April	54	November	161
May.....	69	December	176
June	84	Prayer.....	192

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JANUARY 17

Possess What You Need



Y brothers and sisters, seek what is enough for God's work, not what is sufficient for your greediness. Your greediness is no work of God.

Your self, your body, your soul, this is all God's work. Inquire what is enough for them, and you shall see how little it is.

— *Commentary on Psalm 147, 12*

PRAYER. Lord, those are Your best servants who wish to shape their life on Your answers rather than shape Your answers on their wishes.

— *Confessions 10, 26*

JANUARY 18

Keep on Moving



ON earth we are wayfarers, always on the go. This means that we have to keep on moving forward. Therefore be always unhappy about what you are if you want to reach what you are not.

If you are pleased with what you are, you have stopped already. If you say; "It is enough," you are lost. Keep on walking, moving forward, trying for the goal. Don't try to stop on the way, or to go back, or to deviate from it.

— *Sermon 169, 18*

PRAYER. Lord, guard us from all danger and carry us to Yourself. And You will be our strong support from childhood to old age; for when our strength is Yours, we are strong. *Confessions 4, 16*

FEBRUARY 10

The Marks of Good Superiors

OOD superiors rebuke those who stir up strife, comfort those of little courage, take the part of the weak, refute opponents, and guard against traps.

They teach the ignorant, awake the indolent, put the presumptuous in their place, mollify the quarrelsome, help the poor, liberate the oppressed, encourage the good, suffer the wicked, and love everyone. — *Sermon 140, 1*

PRAYER. Lord, You love us with a love that is true. — *Confessions 1, 4*

FEBRUARY 11

Take Account of Failures

S long as we are human beings, we cannot avoid failures, even if they are flimsy. What is important in any case is not to ignore them, not to disregard them. For swollen rivers are made out of small drops of water.

A tiny leak in a boat, unless noticed and controlled in time, is cause enough for the boat to sink to the bottom of the sea. Drop by drop the hull will be flooded, and the boat will get heavier until finally it cannot float anymore.

— *Sermon 58, 9-10*

PRAYER. Lord, You grieve over wrongdoing, but You feel no pain. — *Confessions 1, 4*

JULY 22

Our End



OUR prayer is “Make known to me, O Lord, my end.” The end is where we are going to stay. When we left our houses, our end was to come to church. Again, from here each one of us has the end of going home. We end in the place we are going to.

So now here we all are, engaged in life’s pilgrimage, and we have an end we are going toward. Toward what are we going? Toward our home country. What is our home country? Jerusalem, mother of the faithful, mother of the living!

— *Sermon 16A, 9*

PRAYER. *You, the Omnipotent and the Good, care for each of us as if each was Your sole care, and for all as for one alone!*

— *Confessions 3, 11*

JULY 23

Love, the Guardian of Virginity



HENCE, it is God alone Who both gives virginity and protects it. And God is Love! Love, therefore, is the guardian of virginity, but humility is the dwelling-place of this guardian. He indeed dwells there Who said that the Holy Spirit rests on the humble, the peaceful, and the one who fears His words.

Humble spouses more easily follow the Lamb than proud virgins.

— *Holy Virginity 51, 52*

PRAYER. *Walk along the path of sublimity with the feet of humility.*

— *Holy Virginity 52, 53*

AUGUST 9

Christ's Members Follow the Head



YOU must realize that when the Father shows His works to Christ's members, it is to Christ that He shows them. He shows them to the members through the Head.

Suppose you wish to take hold of some object with your eyes closed. Your hand does not know where to go, yet your hand is your member. Open your eyes and your hand will now see where it must go. The member follows the way indicated by its head! — *Sermon on John 21, 9*

PRAYER. *Lord, only this do I ask of Your great kindness: that You convert me totally to You and allow no obstacle to hinder me as I wend my way to You.* — *Soliloquies 1, 6*

AUGUST 10

Let Friends Help Us



FOR when we are harassed by poverty, saddened by bereavement, ill, or in pain, let good friends visit us. Let them be persons who not only can rejoice with those who rejoice but can weep with those who weep.

Let them be persons who know how to give useful advice and how to win us to express our own feelings in conversation. — *Letter 130, 2*

PRAYER. *O Lord, my God, pay heed to my prayer. Look with mercy on my desire, which is not concerned with myself alone but with my neighbor's good as well.* — *Confessions 11, 2*