



AUGUSTINE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR GRACE

November 12 / 13, 2025

Ephesians 1:1-2:10; Romans 7:21-8:39

Gonzalez, chapters 16, 21, 24

1. Augustine famously prayed, “*Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.*” In what ways do you experience “restlessness” in your life today? How might God be using that restlessness to draw you closer to Him?
2. Augustine struggled for years before surrendering to Christ. How does Augustine’s story challenge our assumptions about how quickly spiritual transformation should happen in ourselves or in others?
3. Augustine resonated deeply with *Romans 7:21–25*. Why is it important for Christian discipleship to acknowledge the ongoing struggle with sin rather than pretending it doesn’t exist?
4. Augustine saw the church as a *mixed body* (wheat and tares together). How does this view shape the way we respond to imperfection in the Church today—both globally and locally?

5. Augustine insisted salvation is entirely by grace, echoing *Ephesians 2:1–10*. How can we guard against turning the Christian life into self-reliance or moral performance rather than reliance on God’s grace?

6. Augustine described the “City of Man” built on self-love and pride, and the “City of God” built on love of God and humility. What signs do you see of each “city” in our world—and in yourself?

7. Augustine ministered through political collapse and social chaos. How might his perspective help Christians today navigate cultural change and uncertainty with hope rather than fear?

8. Augustine emphasized repentance as changing the mind, heart, and life direction. What does genuine repentance look like in daily Christian living—not just at conversion?

9. Augustine wanted a quiet life but became a bishop out of obedience. When has God asked you to serve in a way that stretched you? How did He use it to shape you?

10. Augustine shaped both Catholic and Protestant traditions. Why do you think his writings continue to resonate so deeply across time, denominations, and cultures?