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By Saint Augustine

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The son of a pagan father and a Christian mother, Saint Augustine spent his early years torn between conflicting faiths and world views. His *Confessions*, written when he was in his forties, recount how, slowly and painfully, he came to turn away from his youthful ideas and licentious lifestyle, to become instead a staunch advocate of Christianity and one of its most influential thinkers. A remarkably honest and revealing spiritual autobiography, the *Confessions* also address fundamental issues of Christian doctrine, and many of the prayers and meditations it includes are still an integral part of the practice of Christianity today.

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"[Wills] renders Augustine's famous and influential text in direct language with all the spirited wordplay and poetic strength intact." —*Los Angeles Times*

"[Wills's] translations . . . are meant to bring Augustine straight into our own minds; and they succeed. Well-known passages, over which my eyes have often gazed, spring to life again from Wills's pages." —**Peter Brown**, *The New York Review of Books*

"Augustine flourishes in Wills's hand." —**James Wood**

"A masterful synthesis of classical philosophy and scriptural erudition." —*Chicago Tribune*

About the Author

St Augustine of Hippo, the great Doctor of the Latin Church, was born at Thagaste in North Africa, in A.D. 354. He was brought up as a Christian but he was soon converted to the Manichean religion. He also came under the influence of Neoplatonism. However, in 387 he renounced all his unorthodox beliefs and was baptised. His surviving works had a great influence on Christian theology and the psychology and political theology of the West.

R.S. Pine-Coffin is a Roman Catholic and was born in 1917.

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