

Augustine Thinks on the Trinity
Highway to Happiness – C. Paddock

As finite mortals, there are some things we do not understand. We must accept them by faith. Augustine, who lived in the fifth century, often resorted to the seaside for meditation and prayer. With the old ocean rolling in and the white-capped waves breaking at his feet, he pondered on sacred things. One day as he walked along the beach his face wore a serious look. His heart was troubled over the doctrine of the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He reasoned and he studied, but could not understand how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit could be one. His finite mind could not comprehend it. For a moment his attention was turned from this problem by the sight of a happy little boy carrying water from the great, turbulent ocean with a sea shell, and pouring it into a hole he had dug in the sand a short distance from the sea. The little fellow made trip after trip with his sea shell full of water. Curious to know the purpose of all this childish activity, Augustine inquired, “What are you doing, my little man?”

Without any hesitation the boy replied, “Oh, I am trying to put the ocean into this hole I have made.” The monk felt as if a burden were suddenly lifted from his heart. The child had taught him an important lesson. After a few kind words to the busy lad, he walked on down the beach, saying to himself, “I see it now. I am standing on the shore of the great sea of time, and trying to get into this little finite mind of mine the things that are infinite.”

Have we tried to do that? Are we willing to take God at His word, and have Him know some things which our minds cannot comprehend? Shall we try to reason out some of the deep things of life, and allow doubt to come into our hearts because in our weakness we cannot solve all the problems of the universe?