

Augustine's Famous Prayer

From John Calvin, *Commentaries on the First Twenty Chapters of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel*, trans. Thomas Myers (Edinburgh, Scotland: Calvin Translation Society, 1843), Vol. II, 264, emphasis added; updated to modern American English.

Ezekiel 18:32

"For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

. . . Whenever such passages occur, let us remember that celebrated prayer of Augustine: Grant us what You command, and command what You wish (Epist. xxiv.); for otherwise, if God should lay on us the slightest burden, we should be unable to bear it. Besides, our strength will be sufficient to fulfill His requirements, if only He supply it, and we are not so foolish as to think anything comprehended in His precepts which He has not granted to us; because, as I have said before, nothing is more perverse than to measure the angelic righteousness of the law by our strength.