

## *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices* by Thomas Brooks.

*NOTE: These are just two of the lists Brooks offered in his book. Also, we hope you don't mind but we revised the two lists to include more user-friendly language.*

### **SATAN'S DEVICES TO DRAW THE SOUL TO SIN [12 devices & their remedies]**

1. By presenting the bait & hiding the hook: For remedies, consider that
  - we ought to keep at our distance from sin, don't play with the bait
  - sin looks sweet, but tastes bitter
  - sin will bring us the greatest sadness
  - sin is extremely deceitful & bewitching
  
2. By painting sin to make it sound or seem good: For remedies, consider that
  - sin is never good, no matter how you paint the story
  - the more sin has been spun as good, the more dangerous it becomes
  - we should compare sin in the moment with how we feel about it later
  - sin cost Jesus his life
  
3. By making excuses for sin & pretending sin isn't that bad: For remedies, consider that
  - sin that seems "small" still brings God's wrath & judgment
  - giving in to "small" sins is a gateway to committing "larger" sins
  - it is pathetic to sin against God for earthly gain or comfort
  - often there is real danger in the smallest sins
  - believers before us chose to suffer greatly rather than commit sin & offend God
  - in light of the Truth of God, our soul cannot bear the weight & guilt of sin
  - God didn't spare Jesus wrath over even the "smallest" sins, Jesus drank the dregs
  
4. By comparing our sin to a great person's sin, but ignoring their virtue in sorrow & repentance over sin: For remedies, consider that
  - God recorded sins of past believers, but also their repentance as examples for us (i.e. Paul, David & Hezekiah)
  - it's not a Christian's job to sin
  - God does not disown believers who sin, but He does punish sin severely
  - God recorded past believer's sin to: 1) remove despair over sin's burden 2) warnings/guidance
  
5. By presenting the lie: "Sin as much as you want, God is all mercy!": For remedies, consider that
  - when God leaves someone alone in sin, it is a sign of His great anger towards them
  - God is as just as He is merciful
  - taking advantage of His mercy will bring the swift, stinging judgment
  - God's general mercy (sustaining life) is over all, His redemptive mercy is confined to Christians
  - God's redemptive mercy is our most powerful argument against temptation & sin

6. By convincing that repentance is easy & we shouldn't regret sinning: For remedies, consider that

- repentance is a gift, a difficult work above our own power
- repentance converts the entirety of a person, from only living to sin to living for God
- repentance is always active; it is a continual act that never ends
- if repentance were easy, fewer would be roaring & crying out in hell
- repentance is just as much an evidence of God's grace as not sinning is
- Satan tempts that "repentance is easy," but soon presents our sin as unforgivable & repentance as impossible

7. By presenting the thought that we can resist failure when walking the line of temptation: For remedies, consider

- scripture that commands us to avoid temptation & anything remotely evil.
- that overcoming sin is impossible if we don't avoid temptation
- Christians should avoid temptation as if we are running from hell itself
- Avoiding & resisting temptation is evidence of Christ's grace

8. By thinking that wicked people have more happiness & a better life than Christians: For remedies, consider that

- A person's outward comfort or "blessing" does not represent God's heart toward them
- nothing provokes God's wrath more than those who take advantage of His goodness and mercy
- there's no greater curse than never knowing the pain of God's correction
- the unrighteous may seem to have honor & riches, but lack the greatest treasure: redemption
- outwardly they seem to be happy & well off, but inside are unsatisfied & fearful of loss
- God allows them to be raised up & spared affliction for now, but they will soon be brought low
- God often internally plagues those people we perceive as externally "spared"
- even if the ungodly enjoy a carefree, luxurious, sinful life, God will strictly judge them

9. By presenting us with the discomfort, suffering, and difficulty of living a Christ-centered life: For remedies, consider that

- all earthly suffering for the Christian will be for their spiritual gain
- all suffering effects the weakest parts of us, allowing His Spirit to remain the strongest part of us.
- all suffering is momentary whether compared to a lifetime or eternity
- all suffering is used by God in love to refine, sanctify & prepare His people for His return
- it is our honor to measure suffering not by pain or discomfort, but by the glory given to God
- God doesn't cause us to suffer, but does purpose our suffering for testing & growth, not to ruin us
- the suffering given to those who aren't found in Christ will be far worse than a Christian's suffering on Earth

10. By tempting us to compare sins with those who are "worse" than us: For remedies, consider that

- to be quick to judge others but not recognize our own sin is hypocrisy
- it is better to compare our internal and external actions with scripture than to compare ourselves to others
- though we think our sins aren't as "bad" as others, without our repentance responding to God's mercy, we will be judged harshly

11. By presenting lies about the Lord, sin, evil & repentance, that lead us away from Truth: For remedies, consider that

- proudly holding on to incorrect thoughts & actions is as wrong to God as a wicked life
- scripture calls us to rejoice in the Truth, welcome it & make it a part of us
- those who spread lies about the Truth, will receive no rewards or comfort in judgment
- we need to hate all doctrine that is contrary to scripture, leads to self-righteousness, & claims good works are as effective in salvation as Christ is
- it is necessary to hold on to the Truth
- it is necessary to pursue humility, accept correction & seek the Truth
- incorrect "truth" steals joy, causes confusion, & produces great evil

12. By leading us to choose the company of the unrighteous: For remedies, consider that

- God has commanded us to not remain in the company of the unrighteous
- unrighteous company infects our hearts, minds, & souls; it's dangerous
- it is necessary for us to look on the unrighteous with the lens of scripture
- keeping the unrighteous close to us will bring us a burden of guilt & grief

### **SATAN'S DEVICES TO KEEP SAINTS IN A SAD, DOUBTING, QUESTIONING AND UNCOMFORTABLE CONDITION [8 devices and their remedies]**

1. By causing believers to think about their sins more than their Savior, even to forget and neglect Him: For remedies, consider that

- though Jesus Christ has not removed sin's presence in the life of the believer, He has freed them from the punishment of hell
- though Jesus Christ has not freed believers from sin being presented & bothering you, He has freed us from Sin's rule over us; we can resist it
- it is necessary to remember our promise to lessen sin, while also remembering how sin works
- believers' sins were debts which Christ paid in full
- the Lord has good reasons for allowing His people to remain weak & struggle with sin
- believers must repent of choosing to dwell on their past sins

2. By causing Christians to believe lies about their faith: For remedies, consider

- there may be true faith, even great faith, in someone who does not think it of themselves
- Scripture's definition of faith is totally different than Satan tempts us to define it
- there may be true faith even if there is much doubting
- assurance can be lost, faith cannot; assurance is an effect of having faith

3. By causing saints to believe lies about how God deals with us: For remedies, consider that

- many things in life aren't what we desire, but God uses them for good

- God providing physically for people isn't a reflection of His love & His heart toward them
- difficult situations can be sent by God to work out good for believers
- all the strange & unfathomable circumstances/events that believers experience actually further them in joy & faith

4. By suggesting to believers that the grace in their life isn't real, but counterfeit: For remedies, consider that

- grace may mean either physical blessing, or an inner change resulting from grace
- there are differences between being changed by grace & holding yourself back because you know of Christ's grace, between desire for virtue & practicing virtue to be moral

5. By suggesting to a Christian that the conflict of sin in them is the same as someone who is not a believer: For remedies, consider that

- the entirety of a Christian's soul is against sin
- a believer combats the "smallest" sins just as strongly as the "biggest" sins
- there is purpose in our soul's struggle against sin
- the believer's conflict is constant, never ending
- the believer's sinful nature & regenerate soul will combat each other
- the Christian's fight against sin is good, has purpose & causes spiritual flourishing

6. By tempting us to believe that if we aren't happy, comforted or at peace constantly we've lost good standing with God: For remedies, consider that

- a lack of joy or peace is not a measure of how much grace remains in us
- the basics of faith: prayer, communion, worship, sonship, are priceless compared to any joy or peace lost from commission of sin
- all believers have been where you are, we are all broken at times
- the causes of joy & comfort are not always the same
- God will restore the joy and peace of His people!

7. By reminding us of our frequent relapses into sin that we just repented of & prayed against: For remedies, consider that

- scriptures show us past believers who struggled with relapses after repentance
- God doesn't promise we won't relapse; we may do what we don't want to again
- even Christians we esteem highly struggle with returning to past sins
- blatant sin must be distinguished from human weakness, (i.e. choosing to lie versus anger in the moment)
- there is a difference between striving against sin & failing versus longing to return to sins from your past
- no experience, position held, or age can keep us from relapsing into sin

8. By persuading believers that they "aren't good Christians" because of the sin & temptation around them: For remedies, consider that

- the best of Christians have been most tempted by Satan
- all believers' temptations are used for their good by God & used to change us
- temptations cannot harm a believer as long as they are resisted