

## **Satan's Devices to Keep Saints in a Sad, Doubting, and Questioning Condition and the Remedies Provided**

1. Introduction
  - a. What are “devices”? (2 Corinthians 2:11)
  - b. What is Satan’s aim with these devices? (1 Peter 5:8)
2. **Device #2** Getting believers to define saving faith incorrectly.
  - a. By equating saving faith with full assurance of God’s love and forgiveness.
  - b. By making them believe a fully developed faith is necessary.

*If men shall define faith by only by the highest degrees, by assurance of the love of God, and of the pardon of his sins in particular, what will become of lesser degrees of faith?*

3. **Remedy #1** To consider that a person may have faith, even a strong faith, and not have full assurance.
  - a. It is one thing to have a right to heaven and another to be confident of it (Isaiah 50:10; Mark 9:24).
  - b. Even believers need instruction and assurance of their salvation by faith (1 John 5:13).
4. **Remedy #2** To consider that the Bible defines faith differently than Satan does.
  - a. Biblical faith is a *receiving* of Christ not a *feeling* of assurance (John 1:12).
  - b. Biblical faith *runs* to Christ and *rests* on Him when assurance is lacking (John 6:37; Hebrews 7:25).
5. **Remedy #3** To consider that there may be true faith where there is much doubting.
  - a. Doubt is a product of our frailty and a reminder of our need.
  - b. Even the disciples were said to have doubt (Matthew 6:30; 14:31).

6. **Remedy #4** To consider that assurance is *an effect* of faith; and therefore, cannot be faith itself.
  - a. The cause cannot be the effect (John 15:4).
  - b. Assurance that we are God's children is a work of the Spirit who is not given until we are believers (Ephesians 1:13-14).
  - c. Faith may not be lost but assurance may come and go (John 10:27-30).
7. **Remedy #5** To consider that faith grows and has degrees.
  - a. God has assigned to each a measure of faith (Romans 12:3; cf. Matthew 13:23).
  - b. Faith can be and should be increased (Luke 17:5; 2 Corinthians 10:14-15).