

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

1. Review:

- a. Device #1: To cause us to be poring and musing upon sin and to be minding our sins more than we mind Christ.
- b. Device #2: Getting believers to define saving faith incorrectly by equating saving faith with full assurance of God's love and forgiveness and by making them believe that a fully developed faith is necessary.

2. Device #3 Tempting the soul to make false inferences from the painful and difficult circumstances of God's providence.

- a. Satan tells you that not only does God not answer your prayers, he works contrary to your desires and hopes (Psalm 77:7-10).
- b. Satan tells you that God and the world He governs are against you, bringing grief and hardship upon you when He could easily stop it (Isaiah 45:5-7).

3. Remedy #1 To consider that many things may seem contrary to our desires but that are not contrary to our spiritual and eternal good (Genesis 50:20).

- a. You do not know how God is at work in circumstances to bring Himself glory or to bring blessing to you or others (Job).
- b. You do not know how God is using circumstances to protect you from a greater harm.

4. Remedy #2 To remember that God's hand may seem to be against a man when the love of God is set upon the man.

- a. God may afflict a man whom he loves (Psalm 119:65-72).
- b. God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:6).

5. **Remedy #3** To consider that it is often the hardest and darkest circumstances that give us the greatest cause to run to Christ (Romans 5:3-5)
6. **Remedy #4** To consider that our desires are often contrary to God's desires (Galatians 5:17).
7. **Remedy #5** To consider that we often misappropriate God's promises, expecting Him to give or act in ways He has not promised (Philippians 4:13).