



# Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

## To keep saints sad, doubting, and questioning: Pt. 1

**Thomas Brooks:** "Though Satan can never rob a believer of his crown, yet such is his malice and envy, that he will leave no stone unturned, no means untried, to rob them of their comfort and peace – to make their life a burden and a hell for them, causing them to spend their days in sorrow and mourning, sighing and complaining, in doubting and questioning. 'Surely,' he says, 'we have no interest in Christ; our graces are not true, our hopes are the hopes of hypocrites; our confidence is our presumption, our enjoyments are our delusions.' The blessed John Bradford (the martyr) in one of his epistles, says thus, 'O Lord, sometimes I think I feel as if there were no difference between my heart and the wicked. I have a blind mind as they, a stout stubborn, rebellious hard heart like they,' and so he goes on. I shall show you the ways Satan does this in a few particular ways."

### Introduction

One of the most discouraging realities of the Christian life is that we continue sinning... we even have the capacity to sin greatly and fall away for a time. In and of itself, this isn't a discouraging thing when viewed properly; the problem comes with the way we handle our sin. Because guilt and shame are real, we bear the burden of our sin. Rather than dealing with our sin the way God wants us to, we either minimize it and withdraw or we emphasize it and despair. It's notable that neither path leads to Christ.

In the past, I've struggled with pornography, anger, pride, selfishness, and a variety of other things. Each of these brings great relational harm, but many times, I get stuck in them because of the way I improperly deal with my sin. By minimizing it, I never actually deal with it; I'm even prone to continue in it. By emphasizing it and despairing, I usually beat myself up in self-hatred, which produces more sin and relational conflict. In the midst of all this, Satan is there vexing and accusing me. I have been left in sad and miserable conditions for various periods of time because Satan works me to become so consumed and burdened with my sin that I never actually take the prescribed remedy. I may do lip service to that remedy, but because my sin is so great in my eyesight, it eclipses the Son. In this way, Satan will cause many saints to stay in sad, doubting, questioning, and miserable conditions.

**Device: "By causing them to be so vexed by their sins that they mind their sins more than their savior."**

*Definition: Yes, he gets them to mind their sins so as to forget, yes, even to neglect their Savior; just as the Psalmist says, 'The Lord is not in all their thoughts,' (Ps. 10:4). Their eyes are so fixed on their disease that they cannot see the remedy, though it's near. And they so fixate on their debts that they have neither mind nor heart to think of their Surety. A Christian should wear Christ in his bosom as a flower of delight, for he is a whole paradise of delight. He who minds not Christ more than his sin can never be thankful and fruitful as he should.*

**\*In what ways have you experienced this in your own life?**

*Heb. 9:24-28: For Christ himself did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise, Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the fullness of time to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as people are destined to die once, and after that face judgement, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

*\*How would this passage strengthen you against Satan's device to get you think more of your sin than your savior?*

## **Remedies**

- 1. Weak believers must consider that though Jesus Christ has not freed them from the presence of sin in its molesting and vexing power, yet he has freed them from its damnatory power and reign.**

“It is most true that sin and grace were never born together, neither shall they die together; yet while a believer breathes in this world, sin and grace must live together, they must keep house together.”

“Christ in this life will not free any believer from the presence of any one sin, though he does free every believer from the damning power of every sin... the law cannot condemn a believer, for Christ has fulfilled it for him; divine justice cannot condemn him, for that Christ has satisfied; his sins cannot condemn him, for they in the blood of Christ are pardoned; and his own conscience, upon righteous grounds, cannot condemn him, because Christ – who is greater than his conscience – has acquitted him.”

“Sin is like that wild fig-tree, or ivy in the wall; cut off the stump, the body, and the branches, yet some strings or other will sprout out again until the wall is plucked down.”

*Rom. 6:14: For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law – but under grace.*

“You must remember that it is one thing for sin to molest and vex you, and another thing for sin to reign and have dominion over you. Sin may rebel, but it shall never reign in a saint.”

“***Sin reigns in the soul when*** the soul willingly and readily obeys it and submits to its commands, as subjects do actively obey and embrace the commands of their prince. The commands of a king are readily embraced and obeyed by his subjects – but the commands of a tyrant are embraced and obeyed unwillingly. All the service that is done to a tyrant is out of violence, and not out of loving obedience. A free and willing subjection to the commands of sin speaks out to the soul to be under the reign and dominion of sin; but from this plague – this hell! – Christ frees all believers. It is a sign that sin has not gained your consent – but committed rape of your souls – when you cry out to God; so, when sin plays the tyrant over the soul, and the soul cries out, it is guiltless; those sins shall not be charged upon the soul.”

*\*How can this remedy provide hope to believers when Satan burdens them with the weight of their sin?*

## **2. You must look on all your sins as charged to the account of Christ, as debts which the Lord Jesus has fully satisfied.**

“Indeed, were there an ounce of that debt unpaid that Christ was engage to satisfy, it would not have stood with the unspotted justice of God to have let him come into heaven and sit down at his own right hand. But all our debts, by his death, being discharged, we are freed, and he is exalted to sit down at the right hand of his Father, which is the top of his glory, and the greatest pledge of our happiness.”

*Isa. 53:3-6: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took our sins and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God. But he was pierced for our transgression, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

“Christ was the greatest of sinners by imputation and reputation.”

**\*\*Contextualization necessary\*\*** “In law, we know that all debts of the wife are charged upon the husband. A wife may say to another, ‘If I owe you anything, go to my husband.’ So may a believer say to the law and to the justice of God, ‘If I owe you anything, go to my Christ, who has undertaken for me.’

**\*What usually keeps you from seeing your sin as completely charged to the account of Christ?**

“Christ has cleared all reckoning between God and us. You remember the scapegoat. Upon his head were laid all the iniquities of the children of Israel; all their transgressions and all their sins were confessed and put on the goat, and the goat did bear on himself all their iniquities (Lev. 16:21). Why! the Lord Jesus is that blessed scapegoat, upon whom all our sins were laid, and who alone has carried our sins away into the land of forgetfulness, where they shall never be remembered again.”

## **3. You must solemnly consider the various reasons why the Lord is pleased to have his people exercised, troubled, and vexed with the operations of sinful corruption.**

**\*Why do you think our Father allows his beloved children to continue struggling with sin?**

“These are the reasons: partly to keep them humble and low in their own eyes; and partly to put them upon the use of all divine helps, whereby sin may be subdued and mortified; partly that they may live on Christ for the perfecting work of sanctification.”

“and partly, to wean them from things below, and to make them heart-sick of their absence from Christ, and to maintain in them affections of compassion towards others who are subject to the same infirmities with them; and that they may distinguish between a state of grace and a state of glory, and that heaven may be more sweet to them when finally arrived there.”

#### **4. Realize that believers must repent for their being discouraged by their sins.**

“Their being discouraged by their sins will cost them many prayers, many tears, and many groans because their discouragements under sin flow from ignorance and unbelief. It springs from their ignorance of the richness, freeness, fullness, and everlastingness of God’s love; and from their ignorance of the power, glory, sufficiency, and efficacy of the death and sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ; and from the ignorance of the worth, glory, fullness, largeness, and completeness of the righteousness of Jesus Christ; and from their ignorance of that real, close, spiritual, glorious, and inseparable union which exists between Christ and their precious souls.”

“Ah! if souls only knew and believed the truth of these things as they should, they would not sit down dejected and overwhelmed under the sense and operation of sin.”

“God never gave a believer a new heart that it should always lie bleeding and always be rent and torn in pieces with discouragements.”

### **Conclusion**

That we would not let our sin eclipse the Son and focus more on our sin than our savior, we must (1) remember that Christ has set us free from sin’s damnatory power but not its presence, (2) see every sin as laid on Christ and satisfied by him, (3) consider the reasons why God allows sins to remain, and (4) repent from our discouragement for our sin.

**\*Prayer Requests for the Devise and Remedies in your lives, as well as in those you know & love.**