

## **Satan's Devices to Keep the Soul in a Sad, Doubting, Questioning, and Uncomfortable Condition:**

### ***Device #2: By causing saints to make false definitions of their graces***

**Story:** In 1999, Coach Mike Leach released a play sheet with false definitions of calls and plays before the Oklahoma vs. Texas football game.

*"False definitions of sin wrong the soul one way, similarly false definitions of grace wrong the soul another way"*

*Satan falsely defines faith as, "Too high, that faith is a full assurance of the love of God to a man's soul in particular"*

Satan tempts us by saying, *"Faith is the assurance of the love of God, and of the pardon of sin; and this you do not have; you know you are far off from this; therefore you have no faith.*

*"Satan keeps people in a sad, doubting, and questioning condition, and makes them spend their days in sorrow and sighing, so that tears are their drink, and sorrow is their meat, and sighing is their work all the day long."*

**\*Do you ever feel like you are a below average Christian? What is wrong with this type of thinking?**

**Remedy 1:** *That there may be true faith, by great measures of faith, where there is no assurance*

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."

Commenting on Luke 10:20 *"It is one thing for God to write a man's name in The Book of Life, and another thing for God to tell a man that his name is written in the Book of Life; and say it to him."*

**Remedy 2:** *That God in the scripture does define faith differently*

*"The Lord defines faith as coming to God in Christ, and often to a resting and staying, rolling of the Soul upon Christ"*

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Heb. 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**Remedy 3:** *That there may be true faith where there is much doubting.*

**Faith can be commended while our doubts condemned**

Matt. 14:31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him,  
"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**\*Share about a time in your life where you experienced faith and doubts at the same time.**

**Remedy 4:** *That assurance is an effect of faith; therefore it cannot be faith*

*"Again, faith cannot be lost, but assurance may; therefore assurance is not faith."*

*"Though assurance be a precious flower in the garden of a saint, and is more infinitely sweet and delightful to the soul than all outward comforts and contents; yet it is but a flower that is subject to fade and to lose its freshness and beauty, as Saints with sad experience find."*

#### **WCF 18.4**

*"True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance, and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair."*

**Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?**

A. Such as truly believe in Christ, and endeavor to walk in all good conscience before him, may, without extraordinary revelation, by faith grounded upon the truth of God's promises, and by the Spirit enabling them to discern in themselves those graces to which the promises of life are made, and bearing witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and shall persevere therein unto salvation.

**Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?**

A. Assurance of grace and salvation not being of the essence of faith, true believers may wait long before they obtain it; and, after the enjoyment thereof, may have it weakened and intermitted, through manifold distempers, sins, temptations, and desertions; yet are they never left without such a presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair