



Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices

To keep saints sad, doubting, and questioning: Pt. 3

Introduction

I was so encouraged by our Healing Service on Tuesday night, as were many who attended. I was struck by how many people are suffering in various ways. Life is full of sorrows, and this reality can be painfully hard – especially when we belong to the God of the universe. It feels wrong that the God who is all-knowing, all-present, all-good, and all-powerful would allow his beloved people to endure such challenges. Whether it's physical suffering, disease, anxiety, depression, infertility, relational conflict, parenting issues, job loss, stress, or some other suffering, we tend to assess those situations and make judgements about God's intentions, reasons, or purposes.

Last year, Katy's dad had his second heart attack in several years, but there were so many complications due to other issues that he was put in the ICU for numerous days. Eventually, he was released, but he was severely impacted by the experience – even to this day. I had numerous conversations with him afterward, and he was convinced that he was experiencing all of the suffering in his life because God was punishing him for his former sins, which were pretty heinous. Even after talking with him, he wasn't able to shift away from this mindset, even though he wanted to. He had been the victim of Satan's lies. Satan will capitalize on the hard providences in our life to get us to think wrongly about God, ourselves, and our circumstances. In this way, Satan will cause many saints to stay in sad, doubting, questioning, or miserable conditions.

Device: "By working the soul to make false inferences from the cross actings of Providence."

Definition: Says Satan, "Do you not see how Providence crosses your prayers, and crosses your desires, your tears, your hopes, your endeavors? Surely if his love were towards you, if his Spirit did delight and take pleasure in you – he would not deal thus with you."

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

Ps 77:1, 7-9: I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me... Will the Lord reject me forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?

**How can you observe Satan's device in these anguished words of the psalmist?*

Remedies

1. Solemnly consider that many things may be cross to our desires which are not cross to our spiritual and eternal good.

“Abraham, Jacob, David, Job, Moses, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Paul met with many things that were contrary to their desires and endeavors that were not contrary to their good – as all know who have wisely compared their desires and endeavors with God’s actings. Medicine and surgery often work contrary to the patients’ desires, when it does not work contrary to their good.”

“I remember a story of a godly man, who had a great desire to go to France, and as he was going to board the ship, he broke his leg; and it pleased Providence so to order it that the ship that he should have gone in was sunk, and not a man was saved. So, by breaking a bone, his life was saved. Though Providence did cross his desire, it did not cross his good.”

**Can you share about a time when Providence crossed your desires but not your good?*

2. The hand of God may be against a man when the love and heart of God is greatly set upon a man.

“No man may conclude how the heart of God stands – by his hand in providential dealings. That hand of God was against Ephraim, and yet his love, his heart, was dearly set on him.

Jer. 31:18-20: I have surely heard Ephraim’s moaning: ‘You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me and I will return, because you are the Lord my God. After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast.’ ... ‘Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him,’ declares the Lord.

“God’s providential hand may be with people when his heart is against them. God’s providential hand was for a time with Saul, Haman, Asshur, and Jehu – yet, his heart was set against them.”

“God can look sourly, chide bitterly, and strike heavily – even where and when he loves dearly. The hand of God was much against Job, and yet his love was very much set on Job.”

**What makes it hard for you to believe God loves you when you experience hard things or trials?*

3. Consider that all the strange, dark, deep, and changeable providences that believers meet with shall further them on their way to heaven in their journey to happiness.

“Divine wisdom and love will so order all things here below that they shall work for the real, spiritual, and eternal good of those who love him.”

Rom. 8:28, 35-39: And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose ... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as

sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death or life, nor angels or rules, nor things present or things to come, nor power, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“All the rugged providences that David met with did contribute to the bringing of him to the throne; and all the rugged providences that Daniel and the ‘three others’ met with contributed to their great advancement. So all the rugged providences that believers meet with shall all contribute to the lifting up of their souls above all things, below God.”

“As the waters lifted up Noah’s ark nearer heaven – and as all the stones that were about Stephen’s ears did but knock him closer to Christ, the cornerstone – so all the strange, rugged providences that we meet with shall raise us nearer to heaven and knock us nearer to Christ, that precious cornerstone.”

***What struggles are you going through? How can you grow nearer to Christ through it?**

Conclusion

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