

DEVICE 4: Satan shows us that even the heroes of the faith committed terrible acts of sin, but he blinds us to the consequences they endured because of their sins (King David's adultery and murder, Hezekiah's pride, Job's impatience, Noah's drunkenness, Peter's blasphemy).

Remedy 1 – Take note that the Holy Spirit brought all true saints to repentance for their sins. Example: David asked God to blot out his transgressions (Psalm 51:1).

Remedy 2 – Keep perspective: Heroes of the faith did not make a habit of committing sin. They rarely fell into sin, but when they did, they repented and drew close to God, in short order. The nature of sin is that it takes command of a person's entire life. If you don't turn away from sin, God will turn away from sin, God will turn away from you forever. If you don't say, "Good bye" to your sins, God will say "Goodbye" to you. [Romans 6:11-14]

Remedy 3 – This is serious: God will never disinherit someone who genuinely follows Christ, but He will punish them for their sins. God broke David's bones for his sin (Ps 51:8). God never let there be peace in David's time, but always warfare (2Sam 12:10). God will never send a person to Hell who knows Jesus Christ as Savior, but He will punish them (Ps 89:30, 35).

Remedy 4 – Take this to heart: There are only two possible lessons to learn from the sins of the saints as told in the Bible – (a) Don't give up when you fail [James 1:12], and (b) Don't do what they did; look what happened to them when they sinned [1 Corinthians 10:8-10].

Questions

1. *Satan may use the examples of heroes of the faith to deceive us into thinking it's okay to sin. If they could do it over again, do you think they would commit the same sin again? How did they feel about it later?*
2. *Remedy 1 tells us why repentance is so essential when we sin. In your own words, tell why repentance is so essential for the Christian life?*
3. *Remedy 3 says God will not "disinherit his people for their sins." So if Satan is deceiving you into thinking that you have lost your salvation because you sinned, how can this help?*
4. *How can reading about the people in the Bible help us understand how terrible we will feel after we sin?*

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1 (ESV)

¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:11-14 (ESV)

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Psalm 51:8 (ESV)

¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 2 Samuel 12:10 (ESV)

³⁰ If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, ... ³⁵ Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. Psalm 89:30 & 35 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 (ESV)

⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 1 Corinthians 10:8-10 (ESV)