

DEVICE 3: CAUSING US TO THINK SIN IS NOT SERIOUS

Satan says, "Why not do it? It's just a little sin. It doesn't really make any difference at all." As Lot said of Zoar, "It is but a little one, and my soul shall live" (Gen. 19:20).

Remedy 1 – Remember that the Bible teaches us that even small sins invite God's wrath [Galatians 3:10]. Here are a few examples: Eating a piece of fruit; gathering a few sticks on the Sabbath; touching the ark.

Remedy 2 – Committing the sins that are called little sins is a gateway to more devastating sins [Matthew 5:19].

Remedy 3 – Ask yourself, "Why risk your soul for something that means so little to you?" [Matthew 16:26]

Remedy 4 – Tell yourself that even the smallest sins cause terrible danger. [Luke 16:10]

Remedy 5 – Remember saints who have come before you who endured greater hardships than you have experienced. They did this to avoid committing what you might call a little sin [Hebrews 12:1-3]. So, while the world may think of it as a little sin, they didn't. Daniel's companions chose to burn, instead of eating delicious food. Daniel himself refused to bow down to a statue of the king, and he was given over to lions as food for them to eat.

Remedy 6 – Keep your mind focused on the fact that the guilt of even one sin makes a person unable to stand under its weight. Even a single "small" sin will sink a sinner to the depths of Hell. Think of how small the gnats and lice were that tormented Pharaoh, causing him to say, "This is the finger of God" (Exodus 8:16; 10:19).

Remedy 7 – Don't be confused about this, there is more pure evil in the smallest sin than there is in the greatest affliction. This is why Jesus had to suffer so greatly on the cross, to pay the price of sin.

Questions

1. *What are some of the reasons given that we should work hard against giving in to even the "little sins" that "don't seem to really do much harm?"*
2. *What happens to our soul when we give in to the little sins?*
3. *Who is calling these sins "little?"*

²⁰ Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" Genesis 19:20 (ESV)

¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Galatians 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. Hebrews 12:1–3 (ESV)

¹⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.' " ¹⁹ And the Lord turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. Exodus 10:16 & 19 (ESV)