

Precious Remedies To Counteract SATAN'S Lies

*by Thomas Brooks
Rephrased and abridged*

Precious Remedies

A WORD TO THE READER

Dear Friend!

Please follow my advice as you read this.

First, know that no one can be best at everything but everyone can be useful.

Second, if you read this too fast it will be a waste of time. On the other hand, if you meditate on the holy and heavenly truths you will reap an eternal profit for your soul.

Third, it is not the person with all the answers who will be happiest. It is not the person with the best sales pitch. It is not the person who read more books. No, it is the person who acts on correct beliefs who will be the happiest. "If you know these things, blessed and happy are you if you DO them." "Not everyone that says, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven—but he who DOES the will of my Father that is in heaven" (John 13:17¹, Matt. 7:21²).

INTRODUCTION

In 2 Corinthians 2:5³ the apostle Paul shows that a person who committed incest brought sadness to the Christian community. When people sin it brings great sadness to the people who are trying to follow God (2 Kings 8:12-15⁴). Jeremiah wept in secret because of Judah's sins (Jer. 9:1⁵). Paul cried when those who had once professed Christ let their physical hunger cause them to fall into the sin of idolatry (Phil. 3:18, 19⁶). And Lot's heart was burdened, vexed and racked with pain over the sin of the Sodomites (2 Peter 2:7, 8⁷). This is because those who love God will mourn for other people's sins, as well as their own. They grieve for those who think committing sin is just a matter of having a good time. They are heartbroken when they hear others joke about being damned to Hell. Guilt or grief is all that faithful souls will ever gain from their communion with vain souls!

¹ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:17 (ESV)

² “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21 (ESV)

³ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. 2 Corinthians 2:5 (ESV)

⁴ And Hazael said, “Why does my lord weep?” He answered, “Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel. You will set on fire their fortresses, and you will kill their young men with the sword and dash in pieces their little ones and rip open their pregnant women.” ¹³ And Hazael said, “What is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?” Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you are to be king over Syria.” ¹⁴ Then he departed from Elisha and came to his master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would certainly recover.” ¹⁵ But the next day he took the bed cloth and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, till he died. And Hazael became king in his place. 2 Kings 8:12–15 (ESV)

⁵ Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Jeremiah 9:1 (ESV)

⁶ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Philippians 3:18 (ESV) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 2 Peter 2:7 (ESV) (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 2 Peter 2:8 (ESV)

"Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed." Psalm 119:136. "I look on the faithless with loathing, for they do not obey your word." Psalms 119:158.

In 2 Corinthians 2:6, Paul shows that the punishment inflicted on the person who had committed incest was sufficient. He said the church should receive the repentant man back into fellowship because he had adequately mourned for his faults and follies. Over doing repentance doesn't honor Christ. It doesn't gain credit for the gospel. It doesn't benefit the souls of those who profess to follow Christ. Consider those so-called Christians who burned supposed heretics at the stake even after recanting their supposed heresy. They said, "We will send them into the next life while they still believe the right things, before they can change their minds."

In 2 Corinthians 2:7-10, the apostle stirs the church up. He asks them to forgive the man who had sinned, comfort him, and confirm their love for him. This was so that he would not be "swallowed up with overmuch sorrow." Otherwise, Satan would sow detestable weeds (Matt. 13:25) of despair in the penitent sinner's heart. As Jerome said, "Let a man grieve for his sin, and then joy for his grief." Any sorrow for sin that keeps a Christian from looking to Christ, or that renders a believer unfit for the communion with the saints--is a sinful sorrow.

In 2Corinthians 2:11, Paul gives us another to show pity and mercy to the penitent sinner... lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his strategies. Pay special attention to this!

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us—lest Satan deceive us. The word in Greek signifies taking more than belongs to us. The context is of a greedy merchant, who seeks every possible opportunity to trick and deceive others for personal gain. Satan is a merchant, who devours, not widows' houses—but human souls! We are not ignorant of Satan's strategies. Every genuine believer has plenty of personal experiences of falling victim to Satan's strategies, machinations, artificially molded methods, plots, darts, depths, which he first used to trick our first parents, Adam and Eve.

My point is this, Satan uses many different strategies to deceive, entangle, and undo our souls. In the following pages I will:

1. Prove my point from scripture.
2. Show you several of Satan's strategies.
3. Show remedies for his strategies.
4. Show how he has developed so many strategies.
5. Lay down some ideas concerning Satan's strategies.

CHAPTER 1: THE PROOF OF THE POINT

Let me prove the point, with Scripture: (Eph. 6:11), "Put on **the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil**." The Greek word translated "**wiles**," is an especially emphatic word.

- (1) **The word indicates an ambush**, a strategy of war used when an enemy is caught unaware.
- (2) The word signifies **snares** set to **catch a person walking along a pathway**. Think of someone who is walking along a road, thinking nothing of it. Then suddenly is caught by thieves, or falls into a pit.
- (3) The word signifies that the prey will be taken to give the **greatest possible advantage** to the predator. The Greek word signifies the predator waylaying the prey, circumventing the efforts of the prey, or simply going after the prey.

One more scripture proves the point, and that is 2 Tim. 2:26, "And that they might **recover themselves out of the snare of the devil**, who are taken captive by him at his will." The Greek word translated "**recover themselves**," signifies to **awaken themselves**. The apostle alludes to someone sleeping or drunk who must be awakened in order to be restored to his senses. Furthermore, the Greek word used here signifies the prey is taken alive. The word is a military word, signifying being taken alive, like a soldier taken alive in a war, or as birds are taken alive and snared in a fowler's net. Satan has snares for the wise and snares for the simple; snares for hypocrites, and snares for the upright; snares for generous souls, and snares for bashful souls; snares for the rich, and snares for the poor; snares for the aged, and snares for youth. Happy are the souls who are not taken and held in the snares he has laid!

Here is one more proof, Rev. 2:24, "But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak, I will put upon you **no other burden but to hold fast** until I come." These poor souls said their opinions were deep, but they were actually the depths of Satan. You call your opinions deep, and so they are—but they come from the depths of Satan himself brought out of hell. They are the whisperings and hissings of that serpent, not the inspirations of God.

Thomas Brooks

Questions:

1. *One way of removing ourselves from the traps of Satan is to "wake up." Have you ever felt like you woke up to a sin in our life? How did God help you to deal with this sin so that it wouldn't have power to rule over you?*
2. *If our only burden is to "hold fast" (Rev. 2:24) what does it mean to "hold fast?" Why would it be a disaster for our faith if we don't "hold fast?"*

Video after the lesson