

“Precious Remedies Against Satan’s Devices”

Holiness

by Thomas Brooks (1652)
as taught by Dr. Bruce Bickel
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“So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs (devices).”
2 Corinthians 2:11(ESV)

- I. Introduction - The subject of temptation

- II. Satan’s Devices (schemes) to draw the soul to sin.
 - A. **To present the bait and hide the hook** (the most common scheme)

 - B. **By painting sin with virtue’s colors** (misrepresents sin so that it appears not only harmless but even virtuous)

 - C. **By extenuating and lessening of sin** (downplays the seriousness of sin so that we think it poses no danger to our soul)

 - D. **By presenting to the soul the best men’s sins, and by hiding from the soul their virtues** (tempts us to excuse sin and be unconcerned about it by showing us the sins of great men)

 - E. **By presenting God to the soul as one made up all of mercy** (tempts us to think that God is so indulgent that we need not fear punishment for our sins)

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- F. By persuading the soul that the work of repentance is an easy work** (repentance is easy and forgiveness is available, so yielding to temptation is not serious)

- G. By making the soul bold to venture upon the occasions of sin** (to fear sin so little that we do not keep a safe distance from it)

- H. By presenting to the soul the outward mercies that vain men enjoy, and the outward miseries they are freed from while they have walked in the ways of sin** (causes us to see clearly the happiness and comfort that flagrant sinners seem to enjoy)

- I. By presenting to the soul the crosses, the losses, the reproaches, sorrows, and sufferings that daily attend those that walk in the ways of holiness** (causes us to see the disappointments and difficulties that godly men face)

- J. By working them to be frequently comparing themselves and their ways with those that are reputed to be worse than themselves** (tempts us to compare ourselves to men whom we think are worse than we are)

- K. By polluting and defiling the souls and judgments of men with such dangerous errors, that do in their proper tendency tend to carry the souls of men to all looseness and wickedness** (encourages spiritual ignorance and unbiblical thinking in us)

- L. To work it to affect wicked company** (persuades us to cultivate close friendships with ungodly peers).