It's been said that "Faith is belief in that which cannot yet be seen and the reward for faith is seeing those things come to life".

Unfortunately, from my experience the opposite is also true "Doubt is no belief in that which cannot yet be seen and the reward for (if you could call it that) is not seeing those things come to life".

Obviously, choosing faith over choosing its opposite (doubt) is the intelligent thing to do, right? Why then, when push comes to shove do so many of choose doubt? I mean seriously... have you ever heard of anyone "Doubting their way into greatness"?

Danny was only 4 years old when he first discovered his talents for doubting. Coming from a poor family it was obvious to everyone (including Danny) that he wasn't going to amount to much. By the tender age of 6, what started as a pastime grew into a full time habit.

It wouldn't take long before Danny unknowingly crossed the threshold from "Believing he couldn't do it" to "Knowing he couldn't do it".

Danny doubted he could ride his bicycle and sure enough when he went to ride he crashed it into a clydesdale, who then trampled it into scrap metal. It was a magical day for young Danny who finally had his suspicions confirmed that indeed he really couldn't ride a bike.

That was then of course... fast forward 25 exciting years of doubt later... Since that time Danny has turned down nearly every opportunity that's come his way and he's living in a van down by the river.

When asked to comment about the power of doubt Danny had this to say "If you doubt you can do it... then there's a good possibility that you won't do it, then obviously you'll have an amazingly remarkable life".

Seriously, though? It's easy to laugh at the idea of doubt being the ancestor of success, yet so often we still choose to jump on the doubters bandwagon, why do think that is?

The Devil's Devices

Last week in my Men's Bible Study group we were discussing what I like to call "The Devil's Devices". These are the devices or tools that the Devil uses to prop open the doorways to sin.

Even though "Doubt" did not make the list of 7 Cardinal sins... its my belief that the Devil uses doubt as wedge which easily allows him to pry open even our most "Secured doorways" to sin. Turn to the next page to see what I mean...
Greed
We live in a society that "Want's it all", because the Devil has duped us into believing that once we have have it all... we'll somehow automatically feel whole, feel fulfilled, feel happy. The reality is buying "More stuff" won't make us feel much of anything for very long.

Because the truth is... we're already whole... we've already got fulfillment... we've got happiness... it's right here INSIDE US. It's not OUT THERE where the The Devil keeps pointing us. Can see what's happening here?

The Devil has us DOUBTING our God given greatness to the point where many of us will waste lifetime trying to BUY something that we've already been GIVEN.

Envy
The first thing that comes to mind for me is "Coveting the neighbors donkey", but that's just weird because I don't want his Donkey, I want his Ferrari, his bank account, his supermodel wife... whatever.. we want what they got, because it SEEMS superior to what we've got, right?

Again, the Devil's got us barking up the wrong tree. Did you notice how I put SEEMS in all caps? I did that because even if we waved a magic wand and poof we instantly acquired all of our neighbors stuff, we'd still feel incomplete. We'd feel incomplete because "Stuff is just stuff".

The Devil's duped us again by getting us to DOUBT our own greatness. "We want, what they have" only because we've been hoodwinked into believing that we'll feel better about ourselves once we get it.

You don't need "Stuff" to feel better about yourself because your already perfect. God intended you to be just how you are, otherwise he wouldn't have made you at all. And while you may not understand those reasons just yet, you can at least feel comfort in the knowing that if he wanted "You to have what they have", he would have already given it to you.

That's not to say you'll never have the stuff you desire. Rather you'll get the stuff you desire when you follow the path that God desires. God understands that we all have desires and many times it's through the seeking and fulfillment of those desires that he leads us down the path to righteousness.
Onward
Anyway, I hope you can see where I was going with this... and I do promise to continue through the rest of the Seven Cardinal Sins in the weeks to come. I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. Lastly, **when push comes to shove it's always best to "Doubt your doubts" rather than the other way around.**

In Joy,

Eric Medemar