

of the will. Now, when you have committed an act or yielded to a thought grievously culpable, having perfectly remarked the gravity of the sin that you are going to commit, and having resolved upon it with full and entire will, how could it happen that, confessing some days later, you could forget the sin committed? Why, more easily would you forget the way that leads to your own home!

You abhor not only mortal sin, but also venial sin fully consented to, and that to such a degree that you never, or almost never, commit such sins. Under such conditions, if you have the misfortune to commit one, the impression that it will make upon you will certainly prevent your forgetting it when you go to confession.

If you have told an officious falsehood, or been guilty of a slight slander with full deliberation, such faults will remain impressed upon the memory until you have accused yourself of them. After that, can you think that you have forgotten in confession any mortal sin you might have had the misfortune to commit? Come, now, let us be sincere. Say that you yourself do not believe such forgetfulness possible. You must, then, be persuaded that you are not bound to examine yourself before confession. By accusing yourself of the faults that come of themselves to your mind, you will, without any examination, make an excellent confession.

Would that you attentively reflected on these words, because, in truth, it is deplorable to find among souls so many who, examining their conscience every time that they confess, even every eight days, are troubled and disquieted at not finding sins of which to accuse themselves. What wonder, we may say to them, if, not wishing to commit sins, you do not commit them! The wonder would be for you to commit sin when you do not wish to do so. On the contrary, what more simple, and shall we dare say it, what more natural than, wishing not to commit sin, you do not commit it? What! Could any one sin with the express will not to do so?

It is impossible for a Christian to sin as long as he does not will it. This is an Article of Faith. Are you surprised to see accomplished in yourself what Faith teaches? Are you at all surprised when you hear it said