‘I will renounce this magic and repent’ - his decision is not irrevocable.

Context for F’s soul - good v evil angel - repentance v despair.

‘I do repent; and yet I do despair’ - wavering in his allegiance to the devil.

⇒ Two feelings coexist in his mind.
⇒ Despair isn’t a definitive way of thinking about F - shouldn’t necessarily be the things that defines him.
⇒ May not have extreme mood swings of F - but as human beings can understand a flux in feelings - part of human experience.
⇒ Manic depressive.

Tension between Christian and secular definition of sin.

⇒ Psychological perspective - classical tragedy influence.
⇒ Fuses two genres - morality plays and classical tragedy - difficult to just accept F is damned.
⇒ Binary solution Christianity presents - salvation or damnation - inadequate.

Guilty of sin of despair - sin against the holy spirit/a mortal sin.

⇒ Defined in Christian doctrine as losing one’s belief in God’s capacity to forgive.
⇒ In medieval tradition called ‘sin against the Holy Ghost’ - considered the worst sin of all because it is irrevocable.
⇒ Suicide seen as result of despair - indicted loss of faith in God and wish to take decisions about one’s life and death out of God’s control.
⇒ Illustration of the medieval concept of despair - the sin against the Holy Ghost.
⇒ A version of Lucifer’s rebellious pride.

‘My God! My God! Look not so fierce on me!’

Mephistopheles offers Faustus a dagger - tempting him to despair.

Hoursecourser scene - Faustus’ soliloquy - ‘what art F but a man condemned to die’

⇒ But even in this late stage of the play - remembers Christ’s mercy.
⇒ Accepting fatalism?
⇒ ‘despair doth drive distrust unto my thoughts’.
⇒ ‘Tush! Christ did call the thief upon the cross’ - hope or delusional?

Old man - Christian perspective - sins are an affront to God.

⇒ Must face up to the true horror of your sins.
⇒ ‘heinous sins’ ‘vile and loathsome filthiness’.
⇒ ‘Damned art thou, Faustus, damned. Despair and die’

⇒ Realising the full horror of what he has done - acknowledging sin.
⇒ Is despair a necessary process - the process of acknowledging sin.
⇒ Dynamic between M and OM - psychomachia.
⇒ OM ‘call for mercy and avoid despair’.
⇒ M ‘I arrest thy soul for disobedience to my sovereign lord’.

Helen of Troy - actively determining his fate - ‘extinguish clean these thoughts that do dissuade me from my vow’.