'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, damn’d. Despair and die’
⇒ Realising the full horror of what he has done- acknowledging sin.
⇒ ‘Is despair a necessary process in the mind 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’.