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## Close to the Edge By Teresa Hampton

Volcanoes are fascinating. Once, when my husband and I toured an active volcano, we inched as close as possible until we reached a sign nearby advising tourists to go no further. I was stunned to observe the steam vents very near my feet. There was the strong sulfuric smell of volcanic activity and I secretly questioned, “Are there sane individuals who actually ignore the sign and proceed onward?” Frankly, I didn’t need a sign to tell me to keep my distance! A few days later, my husband and I visited a local church on the Lord’s day and learned that a young photographer had recently gone beyond the caution sign in order to get a great shot of the lava flow. He inadvertently stepped on ground that gave way and slipped into the lava, he and his camera. Ignoring the rules was a costly mistake.

As the world increasingly blurs the lines between right and wrong, we may be tempted to see how close to the edge we can get. We may see how near we can maneuver to sin and not be burned. Ignoring the laws of God may even seem daring or alluring. It is quite possible, however, that like the young photographer, we could find out too late about the dangers of disobedience, a costly eternal mistake. James said, *Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, brings forth death* (James 1:14-15).

As children of God, let us not wander from God’s rules, or venture beyond His boundaries. And let us resist the temptation to get close to the alluring edge of sin.

**Today’s verse:** *With my whole heart I have sought You, Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments* (Psalm 119:10).

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