

## THE DANGERS OF A SLIPPERY SLOPE

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Perhaps you have heard of the dangers of a “slippery slope.” Maybe you’ve warned someone that if they did something, it would become a “slippery slope” to worse things. The dictionary definition of a “slippery slope” is “a course of action that seems to lead inevitably from one action or result to another with unintended consequences” ([www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com)).

The “slippery slope” argument, where one action will inevitably cause a chain reaction leading to negative consequences, becomes a logical fallacy if it is an assumption based only on hypotheticals and no proof. Someone could argue that if you eat a hamburger, you are on a slippery slope to suffering a heart attack. But many other factors would need to be involved to cause a heart attack. Therefore, it would be false to argue that simply eating a hamburger will inevitably cause one to have a heart attack.

On the other hand, when dealing with temptation, sin, and apostasy, very real dangers exist of stepping onto “slippery slopes” that end in spiritual destruction. The Bible reveals that “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). The writer of Hebrews warned, “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (2:1). To “drift away” is to slip away from our steadfastness in the faith. Lack of attention to the teachings of God’s word creates a slippery path of ignorance and apathy upon which Satan can push us away from the truth. Even Jesus warned that building one’s house on the sands of disobedience would have an inevitable tragic end in the storms of life (Matthew 7:26-27).

Sin itself becomes a slippery slope of increasing danger. Paul wrote, “But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13). One sin can open a “gateway” to more sins. King David started with lust, which led to adultery, which led to murder (2 Samuel 11). Achan himself admitted that because he coveted the forbidden treasures of Jericho, he stole and hid them (Joshua 7:21). Ironically, the wicked are said to be set in a “slippery place” where they fall into destruction (Psalm 73:18). Only God can save us from this terrible fate and place our feet firmly on the rock of truth.