

Off Course?

How can I tell that I'm off course?

- a. You find yourself no longer [believing](#) what God has said in the Bible.
- b. You find yourself no longer [doing](#) what God has said in His Word, the Bible.
- c. Unless you are keeping God's Word in sight, you won't know you're off course... until you crash or realize that you're lost.
- d. God may use [pain](#) to get your attention.

How did I get off course? (vs 8)

- a. Straying is often a [gradual](#) process. (vs 9)
 - 1. Sometimes someone intentionally persuades you off track.
 - 2. Other times you just grow weary and lose heart and wander off course.
- b. When you understand and embrace grace, you change your view of [you](#).
- c. When you understand and embrace grace, you change your view of [God](#).

What are the effects of straying off course? (vs. 9)

- a. A little drift will take you [far](#) off course.
A little poison infects (ruins) the whole thing.
- b. Sin spreads, sin permeates, sin is often insidious (causes harm in a way that is gradual or not easily noticed), and sin is dangerous.
- c. It's not only your life and soul that's at stake here. Others may [follow](#) you.

TURNING POINT

How do I get back on course with God? (vs. 10)

- a. The turning point is when you change your mind. [Repent](#).
- b. Tell Him that you agree with Him about it. [Confess](#).
- c. Accepting what God says about it, involves rejecting and refusing what you and those who bumped you off track say about it. It is the conscious decision on your part to embrace God's way and go God's way. [Restoration](#).

God will deal with those who got you off course. (vss. 10-12)

- a. True believers will return to God, adhere to truth, and live God's way.
- b. False teachers and fake followers will suffer God's judgment (condemnation).

Ten Action Points:

1. Where are you off track with God? In what areas are you off God's course? Write them.
2. Unless you are keeping God's Word in sight, you won't know you're off course... until you crash or realize that you're lost.
So get back into God's word every day, like it is your food.
3. What bumps you off course? The world, your own flesh (sinful nature), the devil, bad theology, other people? Identify it specifically. Write it down.
4. Where have you gotten off track in your thinking?
Where your thinking no longer lines up with God's, that's where you have been hindered from obeying the truth of God's Word.

Worship: not the priority it once was, got other stuff to do

Fellowship: got other friends now

Discipleship: don't have time anymore for Sunday School or folds

Ministry: too busy these days to volunteer at church

Evangelism: not comfortable taking about Jesus anymore

Stewardship: no longer tithing, find yourself possessing more, giving less

Sexual purity: no longer a protected value

Modesty: no so much anymore, "gotta strut my stuff"

5. What relationships are off course according to God's Word? Write them.
6. What attitudes are on the wrong trajectory?
Do you see where your bad attitude started small, but has spread?
7. Where has a seemingly insignificant inappropriate behavior become a habit? Where has "just this once" become all too frequent?
8. Guard yourself against the influences that got you off track.
9. Let your church family help you get back on track with God and stay on track with God. Cultivate spiritually challenging and spiritually encouraging relationships.
10. Memorize Hebrews 12:1-3 Lay aside, persevere and focus
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart