

I'm sure you've heard the expression, 'Living on the edge.' This is where one misstep can mean disaster. It is being pressed to the edge of a cliff to the point that you are afraid you will fall off. It is like trying to maintain your balance while you are walking on a railroad track. One of the wildest camping trips that I ever took part in was on the Appalachian Trail where we had to hike out nine miles with full pack on a moonless winter night. It was truly beautiful, with the stars and the habitation lights several miles away the only background light. But all we had were 'temporary' disposable flashlights that just did not last the whole night. We literally had to feel our way along the tops of ridges and along the edges of mountains. By the grace of God, no one fell a single time. God gave us the stability we needed that night.

This idea of an 'edge' reminds me of a bicycle trip that our Scout troop once took in a very hilly area. There was a place we called 'Razorback Ridge' because of the steep drop-offs on either side, where a gravel road led from the top of a hill down to the river. Being young and foolish, we thought that it would be neat to see how fast we could go down that hill. We began peddling furiously, and it was not long before we were rocketing down at high speed. I don't know what the others thought, but it I soon became aware of being slowly forced to the outer edge of the road, which was curving rather sharply. There was no way to slow down on that gravel, so I began to watch with great fear the drop-off that I was getting so perilously close to. I had such a helpless feeling; there was nothing to do but hope that I could keep it on the road. Fortunately, all of us made it down the hill safely, but I knew that I had 'lived on the edge' a little more than I had intended. God gives us the balance we need to live on the edge at times. I feel that he kept me on the road on that trip.

Spiritually, we are given more promise of never falling. 'Therefore, brethren, be the more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall' (2 Peter 1.10). 'Now to him who is able to keep you from falling ...' (Jude 24). There is great comfort in these statements, but we must keep striving. Maxwell Maltz states, 'A bicycle maintains its poise and equilibrium only so long as it is going forward towards something'. So it is in our spiritual lives. But just as God turned Peter from pebble (unstable) to rock (stable), God can transform our unstable spiritual lives into solidity.