

I remember one time when we were hiking in the Smokies, we traveled along a trail that cut through an area of high grasses and weeds. They were everywhere except on the trail itself, and it made me consider how similar this is to the reality of sin. We can keep sin away from our path by continually traveling along the right way. The weeds can hide treacherous parts of the terrain that we might try to walk on, but the well-worn path is clearly safe. The word 'trespass' (paraptoma) is defined as a false step, involving either the crossings of a known boundary or a deviation from the right path. Any regular hiker has experienced that 'false step' at times as his foot drifts off the real path and starts sliding off the side of the mountain. Many times this happens because of weeds or leaves hiding the trail.

We must remember that temptation can grow to tremendous proportions. It will lean over and try to grab us, just like the weeds on this trip clutched at us, trying to stick us with thorns and wet us with the dew. These temptations can never overcome us, though, as long as we keep on going. When we keep the trail worn, the weeds cannot grow there and impede our progress. We must keep active in the service of the Lord to keep sin from getting us off track. We must keep doing the right things out of habit, and our journey will be a great one.