

## Lane Departure Warning System

Many new cars have a feature called “Lane Departure Warning.” If you start to drift out of the center of your lane it beeps and lights up on a dashboard screen. In some vehicles it actually turns the steering wheel to remain in your lane. It is really handy to lessen the chance that a person will fall asleep at the controls and drift into a neighboring lane. Consumer Reports says it helps avoid crashes. More often than not it detects a slight deviation in the path of the vehicle when the driver may not actually have been falling asleep at the wheel. Nevertheless it is a very helpful safety feature to prevent tragic accidents.

Life isn’t as easy. There is not a beeper that chirps whenever we start drifting off course into a sinful path. Sometimes the drift is so subtle that we don’t even know it is happening. Temptation gets our attention and distracts us often in an undetectable way. It may be just the high sugar



content food next to the grocery store checkout counter. It seeks to attract impulse buying. Take a second look and we begin to imagine how good it would taste. The glance becomes a stare and the longer we look at it the more difficult it is to say “no.” You know what tempts you to unhealthy thoughts and possibly poor choices.

The human mind is not mechanical. It doesn’t turn the steering wheel or flash lights or activate a warning beep. You know what triggers poor choices. But, having the right values can sound an alarm in your mind and keep you on the right path. Here are some suggestions on how to steer away from trouble:

- **You can fight off the urge if you already have determined your set of values beforehand.** God’s Word can give you the direction you need. *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word (Psalm 119:9).* Type in your website browser “what do the scriptures say about \_\_\_\_\_,” and the Bible will give you a clear answer. Don’t wait until temptation catches you off guard and then you make the wrong choice. Don’t leave your decision making to impulse. Make your choices before being confronted with a situation.
- **Resist the tendency to rationalize why you can do this – even just once.** Once you give in once, the “horses are now out of the barn” and it is more difficult to draw a line. Satan loves those opportunities to help you rationalize and make a bad choice. *Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control (Proverbs 25:28).*
- **Know, without a shadow of a doubt, that God will help you avoid negative behavior.** *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).*
- **Mentally focus on positive behaviors of living the right path of life.** *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:8-9).*

What is your warning system? How do you realize when a poor choice is starting to tempt you? How do you fight off the urge to rationalize and make unhealthy choices? The car’s “Lane Departure Warning” alarm helps avoid auto crashes. Your personal value structure and knowledge of right and wrong has to be your warning system to keep you safe.

**Question:** How do you resist temptations that might lead you in the wrong direction?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. Help us to withstand the temptations of life by grounding us in your Word so that we may steer clear of situations that make it hard for us to stay the course. Amen.