



UP AGAINST THE CLIFFS

One weekend I visited a seaside resort in the south of England. While there, I wanted to get to a place called Fairlight Glen farther up the coast. As I started to walk up the coast, I saw a sign saying, “Do not walk along this section of the beach.” No other information was given, and I didn’t know why the instruction was placed there. I ignored the sign and continued up the coast to Fairlight Glen.

As I walked I noticed that the tide was coming in. On one side of me were very steep, almost vertical cliffs, and on the other side the sea was closing in. I realized that I could be

trapped by the incoming tide. I panicked and started to run! The pebbles on the beach made it very difficult to run, and as I put my weight down, my feet would sink in and cause me to feel as if I were getting nowhere. Realizing that I might not make it to Fairlight Glen in time, I looked at the cliff face and considered climbing at a point that didn’t look as steep as the rest. But as I held on to the cliff face, the soft chalk rock gave way and there was no grip or support to climb up. Continuing to panic, I ran along the beach until I eventually reached Fairlight Glen, where there was easy access up the cliff face.

I’ve thought about how much that event applies to our lives in the Church today. God has put certain rules in place, and sometimes we don’t know why. However, God’s commandments can be a blessing and a protection for us because they prevent us from getting involved in sin or spiritual and physical danger.

I now appreciate the wisdom of that sign near the coast. Although it was a restriction, it was also a protection from being trapped by incoming tides. Had I followed its wise advice, I wouldn’t have put my life in danger that day. I know the same is true for us when we choose

to keep the commandments, because they are there to bless and protect us and keep us safe.

Mike C., Gloucestershire, England

Editor's note: Read more on the blessing and protection of obedience at lds.org/go/obeyNE7.

BAPTISM FOR MY GRANDFATHER

I'm grateful that our youth leaders planned a visit to the temple. As we were preparing for this trip to Apia, Samoa, we were happy for this rare opportunity. We joyfully went into the temple to do baptisms for the dead—for those who are in the spirit world waiting for us to find our family history and do work for them.

During baptisms, I saw a young man in our group baptized for Faataga Agavale, my grandfather. I felt tears of joy in my eyes, and I knew his spirit was there. I was very happy we were able to do work for him in the temple.

Saini A., Samoa

VITAL INFORMATION FROM A FRIEND

As a teenager, I didn't like going to church, so I didn't know much about the Bible or about God, nor did I want to. When I was 17, a friend of mine told me she was a Mormon. I had no idea what a Mormon was. I told my friend, "If I want to know anything about that Church, I'll find out on my own."

Seeing that I wasn't too concerned about religion, she gave me a Book of Mormon and asked me to read it and pray about it. She didn't pressure me. Later that night as I opened the book, I noticed her testimony written in the front. As I read it, I felt that I should learn more about the Book of Mormon. So I started reading 1 Nephi. I could not put the book down. I needed to know more.

In a family home evening, her family taught me about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Everything seemed to make sense. Soon I was taught by the missionaries and baptized and confirmed a member of the Lord's true Church. The gospel helped me know who I am, where I came from, and where I could go if I am faithful.

As I look back, I can see how the Holy Ghost helped me want to learn more. As I learned more, my attitude about church and God changed. For the first time in my life, I wanted to do what He wanted me to do.

The Book of Mormon changed my life, and I'm thankful for my friend who shared it with me. A true friend shares vital information such as this.

Michael P., Ohio, USA

