

The Fear of God Part 9 Keeping Your Vows To God

“46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)

The disciples of Jesus and Christianity are commitment and willingness to listen and obey God's Word to receive God's promises. Making a vow to God is a prayer request committing yourself to obey God and do a particular thing for HIM as He is enabling you and makes you fit to do that according to His Word. Commitment to follow Christ is a vow. Accepting Christ as Lord over your life is your vow to follow Him and serve Him. Many who receive Christ as their Lord over their lives they forgot their commitment toward Him. And that is what Jesus said to His disciples, even today, ***“46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)***

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Is a question and need to be answered and expounded properly. To follow Christ is to love others, and loving others will not come true unless you live in holiness as we can read in the following Scripture: ***“8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10 KJV)***

We will learn how to keep our vows from the life of the Nazarites: ***“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: 3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. 4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk. 5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. 6 All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body. 7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head. 8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD.” (Numbers 6:1-8 KJV)*** Following Christ and taking Jesus as Lord over your life is a vow to separate yourself away from the world and move and walk with Christ. The Lordship of Christ into your life is to move away from worldliness; moving away from journeys and entertainments trips, away from parties, away from spending much on the flesh, away from watching movies, drinking, smoking, borrowing money and having loans, intermingle and relationship with other gender in the form of extramarital affairs, courting and dating, boyfriend and girlfriend.

You cannot say to Jesus, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but you do not do what Jesus says. Breaking your commitment to God by non reading your Bible, by non praying to Him, by non attending

church meeting and Bible studies, by non giving your tithes, firstfruit and your offerings, by non giving your effort and time to Him, by not giving up your own plan, all these and the rest that you may do is disobeying Him and breaking your vow with Jesus.

When he says about the Nazarite: ***“All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow. (Numbers 6:5 KJV)*** To keep the hair long and even to keep it in locks on the head is an extra burden and pressure. ***Keeping yourself separated unto God in certain times you are required to go an extra mile in suffering in order to satisfy and to please God. When you commit your life to follow Christ you need to be willing to suffer for His cause.***

When he says about the Nazarite: ***“7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.” (Numbers 6:7 KJV)*** ***Not to make yourself unclean by the death of your father, mother, sister or brother, it means that you should not go along with them and agree with them when they are at wrong. Even they are your family and close to you, but you should not stand with them and disagree with God. Many they lost their separation and commitment to God because they are siding with blood bound relatives and want to please them with their practices and traditions.***

Paul said to the Corinthians, ***“2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2 KJV)*** His point when he said ***that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ***, the word, ***a chaste virgin***, is to be clean and non polluted with the world. Paul also said to them, ***“3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3 KJV)*** He expressed to them his fear that Satan might be tempted them to sin and to do wrong and get corrupted and polluted with the world or with cultural and traditional worthless practices.

Further Jesus told to us in God's Word, ***“47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:47-49 KJV)*** The man who keep his commitment toward the Lord and toward His Word, he will be blessed and will be build up, and will stand firm and stable against all the work of the evil one, ***“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” (Luke 6:48 KJV)*** But the man who breaks his commitment and his vows toward God, he will be liable to destruction, and all what he do in pursuing his own will, it will be all vanished, ***“But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; eam did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:49 KJV)***

The destruction that God will allow to happen and introduce into the life of those who break their vows and commitments with God is just a fulfillment of His Word, ***“4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?” (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 KJV)***

Further we can read about the Nazarites: ***“8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD. 9 And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it. 10 And on the eighth day he shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons, to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: 11 And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day. 12 And he shall consecrate unto the LORD the days of his separation, and shall bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering: but the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled.” (Numbers 6:8-12 KJV)*** When you had vowed yourself and gave your life to God, and all of a sudden there is something happen that caused you to sin or moved you away from your commitment and separation unto God, what you need to do is to come back quickly to God, repenting and sorrowing over your sins and once again pledge yourself to serve Him. ***You should not give way for sins, friends, relatives, trials, Satan and demons to take you away from God and your commitment toward Him.***

“13 And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: 14 And he shall offer his offering unto the LORD, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings, 15 And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings. 16 And the priest shall bring them before the LORD, and shall offer his sin offering, and his burnt offering: 17 And he shall offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, with the basket of unleavened bread: the priest shall offer also his meat offering, and his drink offering. 18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings. 19 And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven: 20 And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder: and after that the Nazarite may drink wine. 21 This is the law of the Nazarite who hath vowed, and of his offering unto the LORD for his separation, beside that that his hand shall get: according to the vow which he vowed, so he must do after the law of his separation.” (Numbers 6:13-21 KJV) This passage speaks in details what the Nazarite will do when the period of his dedication unto God ended. The application of that passage for us in the New Testament is what we found in ***Verse 8 in Numbers 6*** that says, ***“8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD.” We are called to live our all life separated from the***

world unto the Lord and serving Him until He comes and takes up or till the end of our life on earth. There are no holidays, weekends, vacations or retirement in Christ.

“22 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 23 Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, 24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. 27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.” (Numbers 6:22-27 KJV) God instructed Moses how to bless the Israelites after He finished instructed him about the rules of the Nazarites; ***therefore upon full dedication, consecration and separation unto God the blessings of God will flow from God to the ministers of God unto those who had separated themselves to live for His cause and purpose.***

The Word Nazarite had three main meaning in the Scriptures and we will go through these meanings to understand how God wants us to live our lives to Him.

A- A Devotee Nazarite: Someone who had been given in vow to God. As we described in ***Numbers 6:2,13, 18-21,*** ***“2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD: 13 And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: 18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings. 19 And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven: 20 And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder: and after that the Nazarite may drink wine. 21 This is the law of the Nazarite who hath vowed, and of his offering unto the LORD for his separation, beside that that his hand shall get: according to the vow which he vowed, so he must do after the law of his separation.”***

And that is the same of what was described in relation to Samson who was a Nazarite devoted to the Lord as we can read in ***Judges 13: 5,7,*** ***“5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. 7 But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.”*** And in ***Judges 16:17*** ***“That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.”*** The Nazarites are described as looking awesome in their separation unto God, ***“Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire;” (Lamentations 4:7 KJV)*** To be a Nazarite, is an awesome matter. Therefore do all you can to keep yourself devoted and dedicated to God.

But we can also read of how people who are backslidden corrupted the Nazarites, “11 **And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD. 12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.**” (Amos 2:11-12 KJV) Therefore be careful and not to allow people (friends, relatives, a boy or a girl, etc.) to pull you away from your separation unto God.

B- Consecrated, separated one: There are two scriptures in Genesis and Deuteronomy are linked with the life of Joseph who was persecuted and abhorred by his brothers who were jealous of him. “**The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.**” (Genesis 49:26 KJV) “**And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.**” (Deuteronomy 33:16 KJV) Joseph was separated from his brothers. He bore the trials and the persecutions that he passed through from his brothers and accepted gladly that task of God in order that his brethren will be saved. In your separation unto God, you will be persecuted for the sake of righteousness, even by your brothers in Christ, because they don't want their sins, worldliness and naughtiness to be exposed and dealt with. In your calling to God you might be insulted and put aside and isolated but you need to bear that until God's salvation will flow through you to the life of the people around you even to those who hate you, and that will take place when you persevere in your separation.

C- Undressed or untrimmed (vine): “1 **And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. 5 That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land.**” (Leviticus 25:1-5 KJV) The Israelites were instructed the seventh year, the sabbath year, they will neither sow the field nor prune the vineyard, nor they will reap, nor they will gather the grapes. They will keep their vine undressed. In the same way, Part of your separation unto God, that you will be illegible to use and get benefit of certain blessings and material things in life because you had set your life to follow God and apply His principles in your life. But you must also realize and believe that God will be rewarding you for all your sacrifices and suffering unto God.

My dear and beloved: “Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.” (Psalm 76:11 KJV) It is time for you to examine yourself and come back to God in repentance. Turn from sin and consider what is going on in your life and the trials that you are passing through. Is God is pleased with you? Are you applying what we had study in your life? Are you far of what we discussed and you have failed to fulfill what you promised God? The message that you had heard makes you aware of what God wants from you. Come back to God as He is reminding you to go back to Him, repent of your sins and recommit yourself once again to God in accordance to the principle of His Word, and do the things that Jesus says.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord forgive me that I did not fulfill what I vowed to you _____.

Lord I repent from worldliness and the following sins, _____.

Lord, today I recommit myself to correct things and to do what I commit myself to do in accordance to your Word and statutes.

Lord upholds me with your grace, gives me strength and provides my needs so I can continue to serve you and live my life for you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to come back to you to fulfill their vows and renew their commitment. Lord restore them with your grace and rebuild them up with your word and provide for them of what is needed so once again they will start to serve you and become fruitful.

Lord bless your church and help each and every committed member to evangelize and make disciples and bring them to your feet. Lord I pray for more areas to be open by the Gospel of Jesus. Lord I pray that people will be attracted to you through our good example and the way we live for you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Fear of God. Keeping Your Vows to God. Luke 6:46. Romans 13:8-10. Numbers 6:1-8. 2 Corinthians 11:3. Luke 6:47-49. Ecclesiastes 5:4-6. Numbers 6:8-12. ,13-21, 22-27. Numbers 6:2, 13, 18-21. Judges 13:5,7. Lamentations 4:7. Amos 2:11-12. Deuteronomy 33:16. Leviticus 25:1-5. Psalm 76:11.

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