



The Challenge of Complete Commitment

Numbers 6:1-8

The Commitment of Self-Control

- To refrain from wine included the grapes that made them.
- Wine was the primary "symbol of joy" in the ancient world.
- Anything left uncontrolled in your life will eventually weaken you.
- We will never achieve our goals if we allow our "self-indulgences" to control us.
- Unrestrained self-indulgence will always lead to defeat, whether it is a country or an individual.
- Deciding in advance is at the heart of self-control.

The Commitment of Self-Denial

- To let your hair grow, without any restrictions, was a symbol that you had given God the reins of your life.
- We do not have control of our lives.
- People want to be close enough to Jesus to get in on all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them.
- There is a big difference between being a believer and just being a follower.
- Commitment to self-abandonment will save your life.

Self-Separation

- **Nazarites made a vow to stay away from dead bodies.**
- **This was a symbol of separation from the realm of the dead to serve the living God.**
- **As a follower of Jesus, we are called to take a Nazarite vow.**
- **We are different from the world because the God we follow is different.**
- **We ask God to help us control our desires, so we can focus on serving Him.**
- **We are called to have an extreme separation from the realm of the dead to serve the living God.**

Conclusion

- We should have at least the same level of commitment and devotion that the Nazarenes did.
- We are more like Samson than we want to admit.
- Our "perfect Nazarite" is Jesus Christ!
- Jesus' death is the offering that makes it possible for us to draw near to God.
- New Testament Nazarite vow:
 - Give up control and let Jesus take control of your life.
 - Give up your addiction to self and decide to live for Jesus only.
 - Live a life of separation from worldly ways and appetites.