

Nazarite Vow
Acts 18:18, Numbers 6:1-12
January 9, 2022

Acts 18:18. (NIV)

¹⁸ Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.

Numbers 6:1-2 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses, **2** “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to the Lord as a Nazirite

“ A special vow.”

Numbers 6:3-8. (NIV)

3 they must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. **4** As long as they remain under their Nazirite vow, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.

5 “During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the Lord is over; they must let their hair grow long. **6** “Throughout the period of their dedication to the Lord, the Nazirite must not go near a dead body. **7** Even if their own father or mother or brother or sister dies, they must not make themselves ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of their dedication to God is on their head. **8** Throughout the period of their dedication, they are consecrated to the Lord.

Abstain from wine.

No haircuts.

Don't go near a dead body.

Numbers 6:13-18 (NIV)

13 “Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the period of their dedication is over. They are to be brought to the entrance to the tent of meeting. **14** There they are to present their offerings to the Lord: a year-old male lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a year-old ewe lamb without defect for a sin offering, a ram without defect for a fellowship offering, **15** together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and a basket of bread made with the finest flour and without yeast—thick loaves with olive oil mixed in, and thin loaves brushed with olive oil.

16 “The priest is to present all these before the Lord and make the sin offering and the burnt offering. **17** He is to present the basket of unleavened bread and is to sacrifice the ram as a fellowship offering to the Lord, together with its grain offering and drink offering.

18 “Then at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the Nazirite must shave off the hair that symbolizes their dedication. They are to take the hair and put it in the fire that is under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering.

The Nazirite vow begs the questions, “How bad do you want it?”
When do you get desperate to see God move?

When we grow closer to God, it is often through a deliberate pursuit.

Number 6:14-15 (NIV)

14 There they are to present their offerings to the Lord: a year-old male lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a year-old ewe lamb without defect for a sin offering, a ram without defect for a fellowship offering, **15** together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and a basket of bread made with the finest flour and without yeast—thick loaves with olive oil mixed in, and thin loaves brushed with olive oil.

You need help to see this vow of devotion through.

Acts 21:23-24 (NIV)

²³ Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; ²⁴ take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads.

God wants to do something special in the lives of those around you.
Would you be willing to help that happen for them?

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Have you ever set aside something unto the Lord (ie. a period time, maybe an activity) as an act of devotion? What was it? Can you share the experience?
- Discuss the idea that God often grows and matures us alongside our deliberate pursuit of Him. How have you seen this proved in your own life?
- Have you ‘made a vow’ for the new year? If not, what might it look like to do something out of the norm with a hope to sense God’s presence or power?
- Our “vows” or new year’s resolution can often be about ourselves. Consider a possible vow this year to help someone else in their devotion and calling. Discuss how someone might go about this.
- Finish your Grow Group time praying and making a commitment to pursue God together.