

### **New Testament Prayer**

*‘Prayer changes the believer’*

- I. There are significant changes in prayer when comparing the Old Testament to the New Testament.
  1. There are many aspects to prayer: **Adoration** (Jn. 4:23); **Worship** (1 Tim. 2:1; Phil. 4:6; Acts 16:25 *cf.* Heb. 2:12); **Intercession** (1 Tim. 2:1; 4:5); **Supplication** (1 Tim. 2:1).
- II. Vow (Jam. 5:15).
  1. This vow cannot be the Old Testament Nazarite vow under Law and had five components (Nu. 6:1-18).
    1. It was voluntary.
    2. Done by either male or female.
    3. Had a specific time frame.
    4. Had dietary, separation, and hair requirements.
    5. There was a sacrifice offered at its conclusion.
  2. Those who were known to take the Nazarite vow: Samson (Jud. 13:7; 16:17), Samuel (1 Sam. 1:11), John the Baptizer (Lu. 1:15), and Paul (Acts 18:18; 21:23-26).
  3. Jesus was not a Nazarite since He practiced things contrarily to the vow (He was a Nazarene, from Nazareth); He drank wine, touched dead bodies, was close to dead bodies, and he likely had hair shorter than a woman’s (1 Cor. 11:14, 16).
  4. This vow is not like swearing like Peter (Mt. 26:72-74), nor like Jews were in a habit of doing (Jam. 5:12; nor like the oaths forbidden during the Kingdom (Mt. 5:33-37), nor like Paul made when he went back under Law (Acts 18:18; 21:23).
- III. What ‘vow’ means has to be ‘filtered’ through the concept of New Testament grace (Eph. 2:8).
  1. Possible explanation # 1, the traditional explanation primarily based on eliminating the Old Testament usage.
    - 1) It is a promise to the Father to accomplish a specific thing.
    - 2) A promise made from faith, seldom used.
  2. Possible explanation #2 base upon eliminating the Old Testament usage, ‘filtered’ through the concept of New Testament grace (Eph. 2:8), relying upon the context in James.
    - 1) James 5:16 in most original texts reads “. . . and wish well for one another.”
    - 2) ‘Wish well’ is the verbal form of ‘vow’ in verse 15.
    - 3) In verse 15 ‘vow’ is from faith by one who has caused problems (v. 15).
    - 4) What is the object of the faith—the promise?
    - 5) Possible object of faith in context is overcoming spiritual enemies: flesh v. 9, Satan vv. 10-12.
- IV. The ‘vow’ is a determination, before God, to make it right with those affected by your sin and determining not succumb to that temptation again.