



Issue 48 – August 3, 2016

The Naz Prayer Ministry



## A Chosen Path

Let's start with a pop quiz. Fill in the blank:

Kate Hudson and Goldie Hawn.  
Angelina Jolie and Jon Voight.  
Dale Earnhardt Jr. and \_\_\_\_\_.

If you wrote in the name of Roy Rogers instead of Dale Earnhardt Sr., you have the wrong Dale.

As you hopefully noticed, these are people who chose to pursue the same career paths as their parents. That is actually a common phenomenon in many walks of life.

My father was a minister, and all three of us boys followed in his footsteps. Let me assure you that it wasn't because we had seen him sauntering along on a cake walk through a bed of roses. His ministry years met with notable challenges and disappointments. If I had looked at that alone, I would have chosen the music career everybody had expected of me for years. The opportunities were there. Scholarships were available. And adequate endorsements were not lacking.

So why did I make ministry my chosen path?

Whether we are talking about my family or the families above, the answer rests in two words: shared values. Dale Earnhardt Jr. did not have to go into auto racing. Any of us boys could have chosen other careers. But we came to realize that the values embraced by Dad were values we wanted to embrace. Those values allowed us to hear the same calling from God for our lives as he had heard.

In Exodus 20 when God provided His directives to the nation of Israel, he was sharing with them the core of all He valued. The chapters that followed in Exodus and subsequent books further detail the day to day, step by step instructions to live out the implications of those ten directives.

And He wanted them to fully embrace those values and let them imprint their day to day lives.

Above everything else, He wanted them to value their relationship with Him just as He did. He had birthed them through His special relationship with Abram from Ur. And when they chose to embrace Him, and declared their willingness to do whatever He wanted them to do (Exodus 19), He began by telling them to cherish Him and then embrace with Him the values that would make their life as a people strong. Their commitment to Him and His values would reflect to the world what it means to be God's people.

Like the old adage about a picture being worth a thousand words, a life that models God's presence and His values is worth a thousand devotionals like this one. What others hear from our lips will always be filtered through what they see from our lives.

## Taking Our Next Step

Make a commitment to prayerfully and purposely set aside at least one specific time each week to invite the Holy Spirit to awaken you to the events of the week and how you could have better reflected the values God has entrusted to you. Even though your daily prayer time as well as your ceaseless attitude of fellowship with Him all day long are occasions when He can speak to you about how you are reflecting His image, this special time when you step away from the press and the stress of the week will allow you to be undistracted. Hearing the voice of the Father refines and impassions you to be the children who remind others of who He is.