



**Acts: Turning the world
upside down.**

Opposition from Within

Acts 4:32-5:16

32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. 14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

—Acts 4:32-5:16

The Early Church Summaries

1. Devotion to teaching, prayer, and fellowship
2. Radical generosity
3. Awe and joy
4. Bold evangelism
5. Unity and community
6. Perseverance

Acts 4:32-5:11

Main Idea: Satan uses our sinful passions to attack the Church from within, but Christ protects His church by His Holy Spirit.

- **4:32-37:** A community filled with the Spirit.
- **5:1-11:** Sin enters the church... the Spirit protects.

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- Acts 4:33

22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst”

- Acts 2:22

Two Types of Scripture Passages

1. Descriptive teaching in scripture simply narrates what happened during these special times (Exodus, Gospels, Acts)
2. Normative/Prescriptive teaching provides direct commands on what should be done. (Deuteronomy, Prophets, Proverbs, Epistles)

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- Acts 5:12, 15

Context of Ananias' Sin

1. The early church was characterised by radical generosity as the Spirit led individuals to practice radical generosity. (vs 32-37)
2. The Apostles were given great power and great grace to accompany their great message, which is the gospel. (vs 33)

Three Lessons From Ananias and Sapphira

1. God takes sin seriously.
2. Satan is at work against the Church through the sinful motives inside each of us.
3. The Spirit leads and protects the Church.

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal?

- Acts 5:4

3 **But** Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

- Acts 5:3-5

46 And Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun.” 47 So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. 48 And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

- Numbers 16:46-48

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. 2 And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

- Leviticus 10:1-2

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. . . 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- 1 Corinthians 10:6,11-12

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13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

—James 1:13-15

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- Galatians 5:17-18

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh
with its passions and desires.

- Galatians 5:24

vs 3:

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8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,

-Acts 4:8

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2. God's grace is greater than our sins.

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- 1 John 4:4

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