

ACTS 4:32 – 5:32
New Life in Jerusalem

Acts 4

They Had Everything in Common

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.

Outline

Early Church: one Heart & Soul (4:32-37)

Ananias & Sapphira's Sin & Consequences (5:1-11)

Signs & Wonders (5:12-16)

Apostles Re-commissioned & Confronted (5:17-32)

Ananias & Sapphira's Sin & Consequences (5:1-11)

Ananias and Sapphira

⁵ 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^[a] 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.

[a] The Greek for "you" is plural here

What was so wrong with Ananias & Sapphira's lie?

Old Testament Parallels & Common Threads

Leviticus 27:30, 32

³⁰ "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.

³² And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the LORD.

New Testament Guidelines about Giving to the Lord

Amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Proportional✓ According to need✓ Everything (Widow; Luke 21:1-4)✓ Rich generosity (2 Cor 8:2)✓ Out of severe poverty (2 Cor 8:2)✓ Sacrificial; as much as able (2 Cor 8:3)✓ Beyond normal means (2 Cor 8:3)✓ What he has decided in heart (2 Cor 9)	Motive for Giving: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Joy; Cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7; 8:2)✓ Trust (Luke 21:1-4))✓ Assumed; alongside justice, mercy, faithfulness (Matt 23:23)✓ To please God, not men (Matt 6:1-4)✓ Viewed as privilege (2 Cor 8:4)✓ Genuine love; like Christ (2 Cor 8: 8-9)✓ Willingness (2 Cor 8:12)✓ Not reluctantly (2 Cor 9:7)✓ Not under compulsion (2 Cor 9:7)
Giving Style: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Without compulsion (2 Cor 8:3-4)✓ Cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7)✓ To Lord first, then men (2 Cor 8:5)✓ Excel in grace of giving (2 Cor 8:7)✓ No command to give (2 Cor 8:8)✓ Earnestness (2 Cor 8:8)✓ Like Jesus becoming poor (2 Cor 8:9)	God's Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Rewards generous sowers (2 Cor 9:6)✓ Loves cheerful givers (2 Cor 9:7)✓ Notices what no one else does (Luke 21)✓ Makes grace abound (all things, all times, all needs) (2 Cor 9:8)✓ Enlarges my righteousness & thanksgiving to God (2 Cor 9:10-11)✓ God supplies my ability to give (2 Cor 9:10-11)✓ Recipients will glorify God (2 Cor 9:13)✓ Recipients will see grace of God in me (9:14)

Signs & Wonders (vs 12-16)

Many Signs and Wonders Done

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.

Apostles Re-commissioned & Confronted (5:17-32)

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Why would the Lord send them to the temple?

²⁰ “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of **this Life.**”



WATERMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Re:generation

12-STEP CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY

Find freedom from all struggles, including: anxiety/depression, pornography, fear, control, substance abuse, codependency, sexual abuse, same-sex attraction, eating disorders/body image, anger, obsessive thoughts, and any other struggle that has you stuck.

Alcoholics Anonymous: “Hi, I’m Bob and I’m an alcoholic.”

Re:generation: “Hi, I’m Bob and have a new life in Christ, and I’m in recovery for alcoholism”

As my friend says, “Alcoholism is not my identity. I have a new identity—and a new life in Christ”

²¹ **And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.**

Teach what?