



## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study Scripture Theme: 2 Timothy 2:15

May 2, 2023

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### The Book of Acts

**Theme: Can I Get a Witness - The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth**

**Theme Scripture: Acts 1:8**

**Lesson Topic: THE HYPOCRISY OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA**

**Lesson Text: ACTS 5:1-11**

#### I. THE CHARACTERS

- Ananias' Jewish name, Hananiah, means "Yahweh is gracious,"
- Sapphira's Aramaic name, Sappira, means "beautiful."

#### II. ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA – VV. 1-10

##### A. Their Plot to Deceive – VV. 1-2

1. They sold a possession but kept back part of the proceeds.
  - Keeping back influences others to sin
2. Ananias brings a part to the apostles, Sapphira aware of his intention to deceive.

##### B. Ananias' Deceit and Death – VV. 3-6

##### 1. Peter Questions Ananias – VV 3-4

##### a. Why has he allowed Satan to enter his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?

- Work of Satan in the life of the believer:
  - Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour (1 Peter 5:8)
  - He is a disguiser of good (2 Cor. 11:14)
  - A liar and murderer (John 8:44)
  - A thief and destroyer (John 10:10)
  - A deceiver (Rev. 12:9) and a schemer (Eph. 6:11-12). He doesn't work alone.
  - He causes spiritual blindness in the unbeliever (2 Cor. 4:4)
  - He is a temporary ruler of this world (John 12:31),
  - He stirs up people (1 Chron. 21:1)
  - He demands, he plunders, he binds in chains (Luke 11:18, Matt. 12:29)

He hinders us (1 Thess. 2:18,) he tempts us (Luke 4), he ensnares us (2 Tim. 2:26)

b. He has not lied to men, but to God!

- God’s View on Lying:

Proverbs 6:16-19, 12:19, 12:22; 19:9; Psalm 101:7; Ephesians 4:25

➤ The S\_\_\_\_\_ of Ananias was not in keeping his money, but in L\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ to the community, and hence, to the H\_\_\_\_\_  
S\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Ananias drops dead – VV. 5-6

➤ Only G\_\_\_\_\_ knows the H\_\_\_\_\_ of a person, what is in the depth of a person’s H\_\_\_\_\_ and what F\_\_\_\_\_ a person’s heart.

C. Sapphira’ Deceit and Death – VV. 7-10

1. Peter Questions Sapphira – VV. 7-8

2. Sapphira falls dead – VV. 9-10

➤ Ananias and Sapphira were K\_\_\_\_\_ because they do not R\_\_\_\_\_.

**III. THE CHURCH OF GOD – V. 11**

A. Greek word ekklesia (“church”) - defined as “a called-out assembly or congregation.” Ekklesia is commonly translated as “church” in the New Testament.

**Application:** Let us examine our hearts and ask the Spirit to cleanse any hypocrisy or impurity from us - to pass the refiner’s fire over our motives. From this text - we are challenged to give and serve because we love God, not for the praise of men.

When it comes to our worship of God - we cannot adopt the mindset that “anything goes.” God cares about the heart behind the offering more than He cares about the offering itself. It’s a powerful moment in the life of a Christian when we realize that God doesn’t need our money to exist, God doesn’t need our singing to exist, God doesn’t need our serving in the church to accomplish His work. God already has everything. He’s not easily impressed by man or man’s offerings. **God, most of all, wants our hearts. God desires a heart devoted to Him, giving and singing and serving out of a place of purity of heart - not of hypocrisy.**

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