



WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Acts Chapter 5

Lesson 4

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall a Scripture that spoke to you from last week's lesson or lecture.
2. Isaiah 59:19b says, *When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.* As the Holy Spirit began to build the church, *the gates of Hades tried to prevail against it* (Matthew 16:18). Satan's tactics were two-fold: first he sought to corrupt the church internally by means of hypocrisy. When that failed, he stirred up persecution against the church. Satan's attempts were futile against the work and power of the Holy Spirit! Rather than being intimidated and silenced, the church was emboldened and strengthened.

Satan is still opposing the church. He continues to strategize to internally corrupt the church and silence its witness by intimidation and persecution. The greatest defense believers have against these assaults is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Write a title for each section below:

- a. Acts 5:1-11
 - b. Acts 5:12-20
 - c. Acts 5:21-32
 - d. Acts 5:33-42
3. Prayer is essential for spiritual victory. With this in mind, express to the Lord your desire for victory in a specific area of your life. Write your prayer here.

*We are His witnesses to these things,
and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.*
Acts 5:32

SECOND DAY: Read Acts 5:1–11

1. Because the believers in Jerusalem were *of one heart and one soul*, those who owned property and homes sold them to provide for those in need (Acts 4:32–35). *Ananias, with Sapphira his wife*, were among those who *sold a possession* (Acts 5:1). However, what did they conspire to do? Acts 5:2

2. What did Peter identify as the problem? Acts 5:3
 - a. What do you think Satan was attempting to do through Ananias?

3. Read Acts 5:4 (NLT) to comment on Ananias' choice: *The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!*
 - a. Pastor Chuck says, *The issue wasn't their giving – the issue was their hypocrisy. They wanted to make everyone believe their commitment was greater than it actually was.* Compare this with Luke 12:1b. What do you see?

4. From Acts 5:5–6 record the consequences of Ananias' sin.
 - a. Why do you think this sin had to be dealt with in such a serious way?

5. Briefly recap what took place *about three hours later*. Acts 5:7–10
 - a. What do suppose Ananias and Sapphira **should** have done?

6. What was the response of the *church* when they *heard these things*? Acts 5:11

7. What lesson do you glean from the story of Ananias and Sapphira?

THIRD DAY: Read Acts 5:12–20

1. According to Acts 5:12a, what took place *through the hands of the apostles*?
 - a. Note that the believers were assembled at Solomon’s Porch *with one accord* (Acts 5:12b). Link this with the following Scriptures and record your observations:
 - (1) Acts 1:14
 - (2) Acts 2:1–4
 - (3) Acts 2:46–47
 - (a) How does this speak to you concerning Christian unity? See also John 17:21.
2. From Acts 5:13–14 (NLT) read the testimony of the believers: *But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord – crowds of both men and women.* What factors do you think contributed to the high regard for the church?
3. Use Acts 5:15–16 to describe the work of the Spirit through the apostles.
 - a. What do you find remarkable about this?
4. From Acts 5:17–18 record the reaction of the Jewish leaders to these things.
 - a. How did God intervene on behalf of the apostles? Acts 5:19
 - (1) What did the *angel* command them to do? Acts 5:20
 - (a) How would you have responded to this command?
5. From today’s study, how do you see the Holy Spirit at work in all these things?

FOURTH DAY: Read Acts 5:21-32

1. In response to the angel's words in Acts 5:20, what did the apostles do? Acts 5:21a

2. Not knowing what had happened, the Jewish leaders *sent to the prison* to have the apostles brought out (Acts 5:21b-22). However, what was *reported to the council*? Acts 5:23
 - a. What was their reaction? Acts 5:24

3. In Acts 5:25 the Jewish leaders were informed that the apostles they had *put in prison* were teaching in the temple. How did the leaders handle this situation? Acts 5:26-28
 - a. What two things did the council accuse the disciples of doing?
 - (1) Compare their words with Matthew 27:22-25. What do you see?

4. Use Acts 5:29-32 to answer the following:
 - a. Record the apostles' reply to the Jewish leaders in Acts 5:29.
 - (1) Why is this an important principle?
 - (2) Find the balance between this principle and Romans 13:1-7. Share your thoughts.
 - b. What did the apostles declare concerning Jesus? Acts 5:30-31
 - c. Who were *witnesses to these things*? Acts 5:32a

5. From Acts 5:32b print Peter's declaration concerning the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Why is this crucial for believers to remember? See also 1 Samuel 15:22b, John 14:21.
 - b. How is sin a deterrent to the work of the Holy Spirit?

FIFTH DAY: Read Acts 5:33–42

1. When the Jewish leaders heard the apostles' bold statement concerning Jesus, *they were furious and plotted to kill them* (Acts 5:33). However, a man *in the council* named Gamaliel *stood to speak*. According to Acts 5:34a, what were Gamaliel's credentials?
 - a. Use Acts 22:3 to further identify Gamaliel.

2. After commanding that the apostles be *put outside for a little while*, Gamaliel spoke to the *council*. Use Acts 5:35–39 to answer the following concerning his advice:
 - a. How did he warn the *men of Israel*? Acts 5:35

 - b. Briefly summarize the two examples he gave of those who previously *rose up*. Acts 5:36–37

 - c. Based on these examples, what did Gamaliel advise the council to do? Acts 5:38a
 - (1) What would happen if this was the work *of men*? Acts 5:38b

 - (2) What would happen if this was the work *of God*? Acts 5:39
 - (a) Remark on Gamaliel's warning. Acts 5:39b

3. How did the Jewish leaders respond to Gamaliel's words? Acts 5:40a
 - a. How did they treat the disciples? Acts 5:40b

4. What did the apostles do when they were released by the *council*? Acts 5:41–42
 - a. How does their response correspond with the following Scriptures:
 - (1) Matthew 5:10–12

 - (2) James 1:2–3

 - (3) 1 Peter 4:13–14

 - b. When faced with persecution, how do you desire to respond?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From Acts 5 note how the Holy Spirit was at work in the Church:
 - a. Ananias and Sapphira (verses 1-11)
 - b. The activity of the apostles (verses 12-16, 41-42)
 - c. The imprisonment of the apostles (verses 17-23, 25)
 - d. The meeting of the Jewish council (verses 33-40)
2. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work today?

*... Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease
teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
Acts 5:41-42*