



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

THE DANGERS OF MINISTRY

ACTS 4:32 to 5:16

WE SEE HEALTHY GENEROSITY FIRST ACTS 4:32-37

- The believers had prayed; God's Spirit had filled them and given them new power and provision.
- A healthy church is a giving church—a generous church.
- The church that depends on faith-filled believing prayer will know the blessing of the Holy Spirit in its ministry, and every need will be filled.
- How can we tell when a local church is really filled with the Spirit?

THE HEALTHY CHURCH

1. The healthy church is **UNIFIED**.
2. A healthy Spirit-filled church is **MAGNIFIED** and will have *“favor with all the people.”*
3. A healthy Spirit-filled church is **MULTIPLIED**, because the Lord will daily add new believers to the church.
4. Another evidence of the health of any church was and is the way they were **SANCTIFIED**—as they sacrificed and shared with one another.
5. Not every believer can be exactly like Peter and John in amazing boldness, but we can all be like Barnabas. A healthy church is **EDIFIED** with encouragers.

THE ATTACKS BEGIN! Ch. 5:1

SATAN HAD FAILED TO SILENCE THE CHURCH.

- His first approach had been to attack the church from the outside, hoping threats would frighten the leaders.
- When that failed, Satan attacked the church from the inside and used people who were a part of the fellowship.
- If he does not succeed as the “*devouring lion*,” (1 PETER 5:8) then he attacks again as the “*deceiving serpent*” or an “*angel of light*.” 2 COR. 11:3, 13-14

THE HYPOCRISY OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA v. 1-11

HYPOCRISY - that was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira putting on a lovely “front” in order to conceal the shabby sin in their lives—sin that cost them their lives.

- No doubt some people are shocked when they read that God killed two people just because they lied about a business transaction and about their church giving.
- Don't be fooled; God is not mocked.
- He still punishes the rebellious. **GAL. 6:7**

GOD IS NOT AMUSED

The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was energized by Satan (**v. 3**); and that is a serious matter. It is one thing to stumble and quite another to join forces with the enemy of our souls.

WHAT WENT WRONG?

- Oliver Wendell Holmes wisely wrote, “*Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.*”
- Their sin was motivated by pride, and pride is a sin that God especially hates and judges. **PROV. 8:13**
- Whatever we possess, God has given to us; we are stewards, not owners.

MORE OF THE MESS

Horribly, their sin was directed against God's church.

THIS IS EXTREMELY SCARY IF YOU THINK ON IT: God is not beyond killing us if we are going to pollute the body!

- Satan always keeps his servants in the dark, while God guides His servants in the light. **JOHN 15:15**
- Make sure to retain a healthy fear of the Lord.
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."
(PROV. 1:7) One of the greatest dangers of ministry and life is losing the fear of the Lord!