

ACTS

Relentless Sanctification

Acts 4:32-5:11

Satan Pushes Back ...

Immediately after _____ and the resulting bold proclamations of the Gospel with signs and wonders came _____ with threats and incarceration.

Satan is defending his _____.

But the church responded with _____ and not _____ as they _____ for boldness and for God's will and work to continue. And God responded powerfully.

Despite opposition and persecution, the early church was _____:

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.
Acts 4:32-37

If Satan could not (and still cannot) defeat the church from the _____, he'll have to attack it from the _____.

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.
Acts 5:1-10

What just happened?

A couple conspired to deceive the church. They wanted the respect of _____ but had the hearts of _____.

God enabled Peter to discern their deception. (Note the opportunity afforded Sapphira).

They lied to the church which was equated to lying to God!

God judged them _____.

Why was God's response so severe?

This was a _____ against the church. Satan had infiltrated.

Their sin was very _____ and struck at the core of the '_____'.
_____ was the necessary response.

What lessons should we take from this encounter?

God knows our _____. And our _____ are always the real issue.

God hates _____.

(See: Matt. 15:7; 22:18; 23:13-36; 24:51 and Luke 12:1)

Also ...

Maybe our understanding of God is more _____ than _____.

(See: Leviticus 10:1-5; Joshua 7)

Maybe our paradigm of church is more _____ than _____.

Maybe our view of sin is more _____ than _____.

The result:

¹¹ And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Acts 5:11

Why this fear is a good thing:

Godly fear _____ sin. (Prov. 16:6)

Godly fear _____ life. (Prov. 10:27; 14:27)

Godly fear gives us _____. (Prov. 14:26; 19:23)

Godly fear enables _____. (Psa. 110:11)

Godly fear invokes God's _____. (Psa. 103:13)

Godly fear ensures God's _____. (Psa. 34:9)