

# The Ghost and the DARKNESS

## The Ghost And The Darkness Acts 5:1-11



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- 1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.
  - 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part 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 keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?
  - 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."
  - 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.
  - 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.
  - 7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.
  - 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much."
  - 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."
  - 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband.
  - 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.
- NKJV

What does God want us to learn from this story?

### 1. With great triumph comes great failure

Where the Holy Spirit is at work, Satan is at work.

- Israel's triumph at Jericho and Achan's failure.
- David's triumphs and his failure with Bathsheba
- Elijah's triumph over the prophets of bail and his unbelief

### 2. With great joy comes great sadness

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away.

### 3. With great blessing comes great responsibility

What were their responsibilities?

- They were responsible to care for one another
- They were responsible to carry out their vows  
Vows are a promise we make to God or to others.
- They were responsible to confront sin
  - In themselves
  - In one another

In a church of over 5000 people, Satan could have used the leaven of one couple's sin of dishonesty, insincerity, duplicity, and hypocrisy, to...

- Block the movement of the Holy Spirit
- Open the door for Satan to invade the church
- Damage the good name of the church of Jesus Christ
- Yield disunity in the members of the Spirit

How do we avoid becoming like Ananias and Saphira?

Don't make any vows to God.

It is true that we should not make foolish vows. (Eccl. 5:4-6)

Why are vows important?

- Vows are the foundation for authentic relationship.
- Vows are the force of any successful organization.
- Vows are the face of any genuine commitment.

Baptism is a vow that you will follow Jesus.

Communion is a vow that you will follow Jesus and love one another.

Vows are very important to God and to the mission of His church.

To avoid being like Ananias and Saphira, we need answer Peter's three questions to Ananias and Saphira.

- Why has Satan filled your heart?
- Why have you conceived this thing in your heart?
- Why have you agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?

What opened the door to Satan so that Satan could feel their souls?

- They did not trust God to meet their needs-Unbelief
- They were not content with what they had-Greed
- They thought they had a better plan than God's plan-Pride
- They believed their sin would never be uncovered-Presumption

Unbelief, greed, pride, and presumption opened the door for Satan to invade their soul.

To avoid being oppressed by Satan like Ananias and Saphira we must...

- Trust God to meet our needs
- Be content with what God has provided
- Humble ourselves and surrender to God's plan
- Fear the Lord

Are you trusting God to meet all your needs?

Are you content with what you have?

Do you believe you have a better plan than God's plan?

Do you fear the Lord?