1Thess #133

Do not lie to the Holy Spirit!

We will be opening today in Acts chapter five RF.

What I want to do first, is put a finishing cap on last lesson in reference to being stubborn against God the HS.

/Resistance of the Holy Spirit includes three stages of negative volition.

1. Negativity at the point of hearing. Either refusing to be available to hear truth, or rejecting that which you have heard. An Unbel or a Bel, can be negative when either hearing the gospel or having truth taught to them. \

For the Believer, it is rejection of digesting BD and mixing it with faith, or ignoring the opportunities to learn and hear BD.

/2) Negativity at the point of the divine call. Knowing God is pressing you to do something or change something and you ignore it. Bel or Unbel – the Unbel has God the HS working in common grace all around them, at some point they become responsible for that calling. The Bel is responsible to get under accurate teaching and hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. They are responsible for what the Spirit is teaching them and guiding them toward.\

Most people – Bel and Unbel will know when God begins to press something upon their soul. God has a way of hitting us subtly over the course of days, weeks or even months when it is time for us to make a change.

/3) Negativity at the point of salvation opportunity through faith in Christ. In other words, no efficacious grace. This is directed to only the Unbel. It happens when the Unbel is vulnerable enough to turn to Christ yet they do not! Whether it is a series of opportunities or just one, when common grace has broke through during a point of human weakness, yet they remain stubborn toward the person and work of Jesus Christ.\

The truly scary part about this type of Unbel is they had been in a perfect position – usually more than once, to turn to Christ and cling onto HIM and yet they refused to have faith in CHRIST.

More often than not, this type of person only gets harder or more bitter toward God over time.

Yet keep in mind, Bels get hard toward the truth of BD as well. Sometimes a Bel begins to go negative and as they go deeper into reversionism, they get more bitter toward the things of God.

The true story of Ananias and his wife Sapphire in chapter five was unfolding for several months before what you read in chapter five.

Contrary to what some people think – this prestigious couple, had some ongoing issues with pettiness and greed which commonly go hand in hand.

Other Bels like Barnabus were selling family property and giving generously to the new ministry of the Apostles.

Back in chapter four of the book of Acts we see the small Christian communities pulling together to help support the early church.

/Giving and serving is not a competition – it is a private matter between you and GOD. It is God who looks at your heart there is no need to be concerned with anyone else judging you! A ministry, whether it is a brick and mortar building or a traveling ministry, or an internet ministry, cannot be built and sustained by the pastor-teacher. It is a calling of several Bels combined to act as a body which supports and promotes accurate teaching of the WORD.\

In fact, it is not a pastor-teacher’s calling to build a church – it is a calling of the body of Christ. The pastor is to study and teach…that is it!

Greedy and petty people should not be involved in a ministry – they usually bring problems and strife at some point down the line. Many Christians end up involved in conflict because of it.

Act 5:1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

/[Act 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/2/s_1023002) and **kept back *some* of the proceeds for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge**, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet.

The OSN was actively plotting and planning between this husband and wife. Therein lays the problem, mental attitude sins of greed, pettiness, inordinate competition and approbation lust.\

Sapphire was very beautiful in fact her name means beauty and femineity. Ananias was successful and popular in that region. The Hebrew origin of his name – meant, GOD has given favor to him.

/This was a couple with tremendous blessings both physically and financially. Yet their mental attitude was one of pettiness and approbation lust. This was designed as a public display of generosity, yet they were not being honest and they were seeking approbation. \

Many people lose sight of the mental attitude sins taught within this lesson.

Also, the fact that the early church was striving to get established. Then we have lies, deception and inordinate competition which will bring in strife to the local assembly.

/[Act 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/3/s_1023003) But Peter said, “Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit**and to keep back *some* of the proceeds of the land?

The true issue is less about the money and property. More about something deep within their soul, that was already becoming problematic in the church.\

You can not build a congregation on lies, manipulation and approbation lust.

/[Act 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/4/s_1023004) “While it remained *unsold,* did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why *is it* that **you have conceived** (*tithēmi*) **this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God**.”

This was a well thought-out situation, with details on what to lay aside and how to set this scenario up. \

TITH-EE-ME, means to lay something aside, to have purpose and thought as you set something aside.

This is a mental attitude problem this has to do with corruption deep within the soul.

I believe, God was not going to have the early formation of the church ridiculed because one of the most visible and affluent couples supporting the ministry was filled with self-righteousness, jealousy and pettiness.

/Act 5:5 And as he heard these words, **Ananias collapsed and died**; and great fear came over all who heard *about it.*

By all accounts these were Bels. This was one of the first examples in the CA dispensation of the sin unto death.\

Act 5:6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

[Act 5:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/7/s_1023007) Now an interval of about three hours elapsed, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

Notice the opportunity for Sapphira. God always gives us ample opportunities to make change.

[Act 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/8/s_1023008) And Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for this price?” And she said, “Yes, for that price.”

Sapphira has no hesitation because this couple worked as a well-oiled machine, when it came to manipulation and corruption.

/[Act 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/9/s_1023009) Then Peter *said* to her, **“Why *is it* that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test**? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out *as well.*”

There are certain points of time and certain circumstances where GOD will not continue to allow HIS children to go any further away from HIS plan.\

Especially when what they are doing touches the lives of other members of the body of Christ.

[Act 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/5/10/s_1023010) And immediately she collapsed at his feet and died; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

/Lying to the Holy Spirit is sign of fragmentation within the soul. Lying against the Holy Spirit is seen in the life of a Bel who is lying to others and themselves. They have become a hypocrite within their spiritual and natural life. Their words are not fully aligned with their lifestyle. They moved away from the viewpoint of BD and yet they pretend to be at spiritual maturity.\

These types of backsliding Bels can have a profound effect on other Bels and even Unbels! Because they are showing off an example of being a carnal Christian as the model for others to follow.

When a new Bel or an Unbel sees a mature Christian involved in corruption and deception it is like a green light.

It confirms one of two things…either you can talk and even appear to walk like a Christian and still live like an Unbel – or, that what you claim to believe as a Christian is all a big façade.

Who you are in Christ is an open letter to other people.

/When a Bel fragments within the soul it is a breaking away and confusion deep within. Mental attitude sins begin to dominate the soul, inordinate ambition and inordinate competition in the spiritual realm often spring up. It is accompanied by jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, hatred, self-pity, revenge motivation, this will eventually turn toward other Believers.\

Ananias and Sapphira were in the real estate business, owning several properties and businesses in Jerusalem. They were very successful in business and they had become Believers.

Their life was on display within the public and political arena of Jerusalem.

They discovered that a man named Barnabas, one of their rivals in business had actually given all of his property to the apostles, who in turn gave much of it to the poor people in Jerusalem.

When the Apostle Peter had sorted out the needs for the ministry, they gave an abundance over to those in the community who were struggling.

Barnabus and the Apostle Peter were filled by the Spirit motivated by BD.

This was the same Barnabus, who would go with Paul as a missionary. A few members of the local congregation, must have lifted Barnabus up in public prayer.

Ananias and Sapphira caught wind of it.

/This was not satanic possession but satanic influence. This was an issue of a bruised ego and a need to publicly excel above other. There was nothing wrong with keeping back part of the price of the land, but in competition with Barnabas, Ananias lied about what he gave. They were jealous, there was a bitterness toward Barnabus which motivated the lie. \

They were also legalists and self-righteous; therefore, they were in moral degeneracy. They were dishonest in their spiritual life. They were in competition and trying to make an impression from the arrogance complex of the old sin nature. REPEAT

/They were living under approbation lust and pettiness. Arrogance becomes the basis of rejecting the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in the life. Believers do this today by Christian activism, crusader arrogance, making an issue of their own deeds while underneath rejecting true humility and living in BD. They act and speak as if they walk in the new nature yet they spend most of their time in the flesh.\

Christian activism is born-again Believers being used by satanic thought to whitewash the Devil’s world. Many Christians live a life of lies and deceptions.

Yet outwardly they look like spiritual winners in their community.

/This type of sin is committed by the Believer living in reversionism. People who lie are unstable and destructive to their own soul. Pressure on fleshly pride causes jealousy, which motivates deception. Persistent reversionism, leads to evil in the soul, which leads to lying to the Holy Spirit and others.\

The Bel moving forward toward maturity mountain wants to have integrity and character – they want the nature of Christ to increase in power and authority in their life.

/Pro 13:5 **A righteous person hates a false statement**, But a wicked person acts disgustingly and shamefully.

When a Bel is growing in God’s plan their integrity and character begin to shine at a higher level. Even within the minor indiscretion of cosmic lies and manipulation that many people just brush off. The mature Bel does not participate in that.\

In other words – it doesn’t matter what the world says, what everyone else is doing… I MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN.

/Pro 13:11 Wealth obtained from nothing dwindles, **But one who gathers by labor increases *it****.*

The mature Bel respects a hard earned, honest day of labor. They know GOD blesses in HIS way and HIS time for those who walk the straight paths of HIS WORD.\

You stop caring about the guy next to you at work, who makes a few dollars more and seems to do less work.

You focus on living your life and doing your work as unto the LORD.

/Luk 8:17 “For **nothing is concealed that will not become evident**, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. 18 “So **take care how you listen**; for whoever has, to him *more* will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him.”

Those who increase within intimacy of the LORD’s word, realize the abundance comes from that! Not the outward appearance of wealth or prestige.\

God’s ways are not man’s ways – GOD does not conform or fit neatly into the cosmic system!

In closing I want to let everyone know if you are coming to the November Bible Conference here is the hotel information;

Towneplace Suites – Marriot

8125 SW Highwy 200, Ocala Fl, 34481

352-619-1234

Fellowship Friday on Nov 10th we will meet at the parking lot of the hotel at noontime.