One Common Belief, One Common Goal, One Mortal Sin, One Mortal Consequence

Acts 4:32-5:11
July 26, 2026
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The Big Idea: The work of the Holy Spirit is magnified by the complete, generous hearts of the believer, which strengthens the Body of Christ. However, when the heart of the believer is more focused on earthly gain than on humble obedience, this produces callousing pride, allowing sin to rule, ultimately blinding believers to their relationship with Christ.

Lessons from the Common Goal of the Early Church (Acts 4:32-37)

- The common centerpiece of the early church was based on the powerful eyewitness testimonies of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (v. 33).
- The early church believers were of one heart and one soul because they had one Great Lord and Savior.
- As Christians, it should not be out of morality of obligation to give, BUT instead out of Morality of Happiness to give because true satisfactory joy comes through serving the Lord.
- Our Goal is not just to Obey Rules, but to Obey Our Master, which merits our obedience to His standards, being good stewards of His Church.

(Acts 5:1-11) 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[a] 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. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Lessons from this Mortal Consequence of Lying (Acts 5:1-11)

- The Sin of Ananias and Sapphira was the deception that they gave the full price of the land to the Lord – a resemblance of the work of satan (Prov. 12:22, 19:5, 21:6).
- When we lie to the Holy Spirit, we are lying to God, because the Holy Spirit is one person of the Trinity (John 14:16-17, Acts 1:8)
- We are thankful in the Church Age that not every practice is
- a pattern in the Bible
- The fear of the Lord fortified the early Church to live a life in total devotion to God (v. 5, 11)
- When we are judged by God, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned (1 Cor. 11:27-32)
- Acts 5:1-11 is an example of an unsettling wake-up call for those who try to deceive God and His people.
- It is by His Grace that He gives His Church a Warning.

God is Holy and so should we

○He is Not interested in our half-hearted giving to Him.
○He is Not interested in our half hearted devotion to Him
Leviticus 10:1-3
○He is interested in our full, devoted, generous heart to Him.
2 Corinthians 7:1

Men who fear God face life fearlessly. Men who do not fear God end up fearing everything.
~ Richard Halverson