

Acts

PASTOR GLEN BARNES
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OF THE APOSTLES

First
EXPERIENTIAL CHURCH - ALBANY

Facing Opposition

“ In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

~ John 16:33b (NIV)

“ Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

~ 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

“ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith.”

~ 1 Peter 5:8-9a (NIV)

The Posse's Bold Prayer:

Acts 4:29-6:7

“ Now, Lord, ... enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

~ Acts 4:29-30 (NIV)

God's Answer:

“ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

~ Acts 4:31-35 (NIV)

The immediate answer to their request for signs and wonders is the _____ and _____ of the early Christians.

The Gospel Caused them to _____ on
Their possessions and _____ on one another.

Communism *or* Common-ism

Communism says, “*what's yours is mine and I'll take it by force.*”

Common-ism says, “*what's mine is yours and I give it to you by choice.*”

Opposition from Within:

Opposition Arises

1 Moral Failure through _____.

“ Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'), ³⁷ sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.”

~ Acts 4:36-37 (NIV)

BARNABAS (Son of Encouragement)

- Welcomes Saul after his Conversion
- Diversifies the Church as Pastor of Gentiles
- Raises Money to help Jerusalem Church
- Missionary Partner to Paul
- Stands up to Paul to Defend John Mark

“ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.”

ACTS 5:1-4 CONTINUES » Please Turn Over Your Page

“³ Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?’⁴ Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” ~ Acts 5:1-4 (NIV)



Open Your Bible to
Acts 5:5-11 to follow along.

The Deaths of Ananias and Sapphria are Descriptive not Prescriptive.

WHAT WE LEARN FROM ANANIAS AND SAPPHRIA:

1 | You Cannot Hide from God. 2 | Sin is a Big Deal to God. 3 | The Fear of the Lord should be a Defining Mark of the Church.

We Overcome the Opposition of Moral Failure By Regularly

Opposition from Outside:

_____ not leaving it too _____.

2

_____ and Threats.

“Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ ‘Go, stand in the temple courts,’ he said, ‘and tell the people all about this new life. ²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.’” ~ Acts 5:17-21a (NIV)

“The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,’ he said. ‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’ ²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings!’” ~ Acts 5:27-29 (NIV)

“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” ~ Acts 5:41-42 (NIV)

Opposition from Around:

We Overcome the Opposition of Persecution not with Fear or Backing Down but with

_____ and _____.

3

_____ and _____.

“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.” ~ Acts 6:1 (NIV)



Open Your Bible to
Acts 6:2-7 to follow along.

WE OVERCOME THE OPPOSITION OF DIVISION AND DISTRACTION THROUGH

- Clear Focus.
- Godly Progress.
- Welcome and Expansion.

DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS *now on the APP* |

- 1 - Read John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:12-13, 1 Peter 5:8-9. What is your honest response to these verses? Did anyone explain this to you when first began to follow Jesus? How has your view changed on trouble and opposition as you have matured in your faith?
- 2 - Read Acts 4:29-35. How does this picture of the early church sound to you? Can this happen again?
- 3 - Pastor Glen said the obvious response to the growth of faith and the church is going to be opposition from within and without. How have you experienced this in your walk with God?

- 4 - Read Acts 5:1-11. What would you say God is trying to teach us by including this difficult passage in the Bible?
- 5 - Of the three oppositions: Moral Failure, Persecution or Distraction which do you think is the “biggest deal” in our world today? Which is the biggest deal for you these days?
- 6 - What steps can you take this week to overcome your greatest area of opposition?

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