

Low Bar

Part 3

Acts 4:32–37 (NKJV)

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,

35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 5:1–11 (NKJV)

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.

1. Money causes a battle for control

Acts 5:3 (NKJV)

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?"

ἐπλήρωσεν eplērōsen
πληρω πlēroō -- fulfill; complete; fill; control

Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV)

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled** with the Spirit,

Acts 5:4 (NKJV)

4 While it remained, was it not **your own**? And after it was sold, was it not in **your own control**?

2. Money is an issue of the heart

Acts 5:4 (NKJV)

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."

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (NKJV)

9 "The **heart** is deceitful above all things, and **desperately wicked**; Who can know it?
10 I, the LORD, **search the heart**, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Luke 12:34 (NKJV)

34 For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

3. Your money is a test

Acts 5:9 (NKJV)

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."

Deuteronomy 6:16 (NASB95)

16 "You shall not put the LORD your God to the **test**, as you tested Him at Massah.

Malachi 3:10 (NASB95)

10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and **test Me** now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

- **Giving is a part of God's economic plan to bless His people.**

Proverbs 3:9–10 (NASB95)

9 Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the **first of all** your produce;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.

- Tithing is a test that determines your vision. To not tithing means you have divided vision. You cannot have division.

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NASB95)

1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of self, **lovers of money**, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.