

AMPLIFIED – Conviction

August 30-31, 2025

“conviction” - 1) “a strong persuasion or belief; the state of being convinced”, and 2) “the act of convincing a person of error or of compelling the admission of truth” – *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

Acts 4:34-37 (AMP) – “There was not a needy person among them, because those who were owners of land or houses were selling them, and bringing the proceeds of the sales and placing the money down at the apostles’ feet. Then it was distributed to each as anyone had need. Now Joseph, a Levite and native of Cyprus, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), sold a field belonging to him and brought the money and set it at the apostles’ feet”.

Acts 5:1-4 (AMP) – Now a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife’s full knowledge [and complicity] he kept back some of the proceeds, bringing only a portion of it, and set it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and [secretly] keep back for yourself some of the proceeds [from the sale] of the land? As long as it remained [unsold], did it not remain your own [to do with as you pleased]? And after it was sold, was the money not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this act [of hypocrisy and deceit] in your heart? You have not [simply] lied to people, but to God”.

“kept back” = Greek *nosphizo* – “to purloin or pilfer”

Titus 2:9-10 (NIV) – “Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive”.

Joshua 7:1 (NIV) – “But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord’s anger burned against Israel”.

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Acts 5:5-10a (AMP) – “And hearing these words, Ananias fell down suddenly and died; and great fear and awe gripped those who heard of it. And the young men [in the congregation] got up and wrapped up the body, and carried it out and buried it. Now after an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, ‘Tell me whether you sold your land for so much?’ And she said, ‘Yes, for so much’. Then Peter said to her, ‘How could you two have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also’. And at once she fell down at his feet and died”.

John 16:8-11 (NLT) – “And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged”.

“The Spirit does not merely accuse men of sin, He brings to them an inescapable sense of guilt so that they realize their shame and helplessness before God” –

Merrill C. Tenney

Acts 5:17-21a (AMP) – “But the high priest stood up, along with all his associates (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy and resentment. They arrested the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, and leading them out, he said, ‘Go, stand and continue to tell the people in the temple [courtyards] the whole message of this Life [the eternal life revealed by Christ and found through faith in Him]’. When they heard this, they went into the temple [courtyards] about daybreak and began teaching”.

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV) – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up”.

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Acts 5:25-29 (AMP) – But someone came and told them, “The men whom you put in prison are standing [right here] in the temple [area], teaching the people!” Then the captain went with the officers and brought them back, without hurting them (because they were afraid of the people, worried that they might be stoned). So they brought them and presented them before the Council (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court). The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you intend to bring this Man’s blood on us [by accusing us as His murderers]”. Then Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than men [we have no other choice]”.

Acts 5:38-39 (AMP) – “So, in the present case, I say to you, stay away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or action is of men [merely human origin], it will fail and be destroyed; but if it is of God [and it appears that it is], you will not be able to stop them; or else you may even be found fighting against God!”

Acts 5:40-42 (AMP) – “The Council (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court) took his advice; and after summoning the apostles, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and released them. So they left the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy [dignified by indignity] to suffer shame for [the sake of] His name. And every single day, in the temple [area] and in homes, they did not stop teaching and telling the good news of Jesus as the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed)”.

“The Church has never been harmed or hindered by opposition from without; it has been perpetually harmed and hindered by perils from within” – ***G. Campbell Morgan***