

**Welcome to the Worship Celebration of**



**SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED**

# Church – The Beginnings, Part 13

## The Community of Faith, Finances, and the Fear of the LORD



- 1. The Community of Faith – it was not communism – but possessions were to be used for the common purpose of loving one another and spreading the gospel of Christ not for self-indulgence, etc. (see Luke 12:15; 14:33; Acts 2:44-45) – taking care of all those folks who would've gone home to their home countries after Pentecost – were still there.**



**2. The Preaching of the Gospel and the Teaching of God's Word continued Publicly in the Temple at Solomon's Porch (Solomon's Portico). This is Central to being a Community of Faith. The Word of God Proclaimed, Trusted, Obeyed, and Lived-Out in the church and publicly in the sight of the lost around us. The Apostles were the only leaders at this point, and God's Miraculous powers were very strong in and through them, to CONFIRM God's Word to bring the Lost to Salvation and to BOLSTER the FAITH of those already saved.**



### **3. Finances, Possessions, etc. – Grace Giving unto God for His Kingdom Purposes**

#### **Facts about this Historical Account (Acts 4:32 – 5:16)**

**a. This was VOLUNTARY and was INITIATED by the people, not the apostles → it was inspired by God’s Spirit according to God’s Word (see Exodus 35:1 – 36:7)**

**b. This was to meet present needs**

**c. It was NOT a continuous, ongoing “collection” of money**

**d. It was publicly laid at the feet of the Apostles -**

**Conclusion: the Apostles must’ve been Trustworthy with Finances**

#### **4. Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? (Acts 5:1-11)**

**Simple Answer (surface answer): They Lied to God, the Holy Spirit.**

**What or Who filled their hearts? See Acts 5:3**

**“SATAN has filled your hearts to lie to the Holy Spirit ...”**

**So, can Satan fill the Heart of a Genuine, Born Again, Disciple of Jesus Christ? Isn't the believer's heart filled with Christ by the Holy Spirit? So, were Ananias and Sapphira really saved, born again believers in Christ?**

**More Questions: Haven't folks lied to God, after being saved, and not been killed by God?**

**Answer: Yes, of course**

#### 4. Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? (Acts 5:1-11)

**Big Picture Answer: God made an EXAMPLE of them.**

It is the Beginning, the Foundational Period of Laying the Foundations of the Church - Read Exodus through Joshua ... notice how God greatly and powerfully intervened at the beginning – at Mount Horeb / Sinai ... and then later on He worked through the leader(s) – such as through Moses ... and then through Joshua. By the time of Joshua we saw less miraculous and more requirement of obedience. **That is just the WAY God is. Laying a foundation with Power and the Miraculous and then folks must Obey God or suffer the consequences as they come, etc. Ananias and Sapphira became EXAMPLES and folks Feared God, again.**

**The Fear of the LORD is very Healthy for Church Growth and Evangelism. Once folks Feared, Trusted, and Obeyed God, He provided the Miraculous → CONFIRMING His Word**

**It also SECURED the Leadership Authority of the Apostles AND their Message AND the LEGITIMACY of this New Jesus Movement**

**Let's Worship God ... Because of Who He is,  
For What He has done, and What He is Yet  
to do → He is the GREAT GOD, ALMIGHTY  
WHO HAS ALL CONTROL OVER THE  
WHOLE UNIVERSE and TIME...**

**ALL POWERFUL ALMIGHTY GOD  
The GOD of ISRAEL**

