



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High.

**Title:** There is No Perfect Church,  
Part 2

**Lesson:** 38

**Text:** Acts 5:7-11

**Date:** March 26, 2023

1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the **tempter** might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

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Acts 5:1-6 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he 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 some of the price of the land? 4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

**Four reasons Ananias and Sapphira were believers.**

1. They were included with the “congregation of those who believed (4:32)
2. The whole point of the story is to show how Satan attacks believers not how he sows tares.
3. They had a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit that unbeliever’s don’t have

(3) “lie to the Holy Spirit”

(9) “put the Spirit of the Lord to the test”

4. Luke wants to show us the two competing forces in the Christian life.

“filling of the Holy spirit”    “Satan’s filling

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan **filled** your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?

### **A very important distinction:**

Ananias was filled not possessed.

Luke 22:3 And Satan **entered into** Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.

### **Peter experienced Satan’s influence.**

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, **Satan!** You are a stumbling block to Me; for

you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

**David experienced Satan's influence.**

1 Chronicles 21:1-3 Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether **you** sold the land for such and such a price?"

**NIV** - Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?

**NET** - "Tell me, were the two of you paid this amount for the land?"

And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?"

9b Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well."

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

## Was the punishment too harsh?

1. The severity of the judgment is a pattern based on timing.
  - Leviticus 10 - God killed Nadab & Abihu
  - 2 Sam. 6:1-7 - 1 Chron. 13:9-12 - God killed Uzzah
  - Josh. 7 - God killed Achan
  
2. It introduces an important but often neglected doctrine called the “\_\_\_\_\_”

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this.

1 Corinthians 11:27–30 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. 30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number **sleep**.

11 And great fear came over the whole **church**, and over all who heard of these things.

“**church**” [ekklesia] - “the called out ones”

**The** \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:9–10 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## **Discussion Guide**

1. How does the world's picture of Satan differ from what the Bible says.
2. How does Peter set the example for addressing sin in the church today?
3. Read 1 John 1:5-9 and discuss why confession of sin is so important.
4. How do we know if we love money?
5. We covered a lot of topics in today's sermon. Which one struck you personally as the most important?

**ANSWERS:** Beware of the serpent, sin unto death, love of money

