

LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today's lesson comes from the lives of two spiritually mature believers of the first century AD named Ananias and Sapphira who lied to the Holy Spirit.

They were active members of the spiritually mature bible teaching, ministry-minded church of Jerusalem. The Scriptures describes their church as "much grace was upon them all." (Acts 4:33b; 4:32-37)

These two spiritually mature believers understood that they were indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.6:19-20) and that they were commanded to walk by means of the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16).

Yet in spite of understanding that they had access to the supernatural omnipotent power of God, the Holy Spirit, they chose to lie to the Holy Spirit.

We might wonder why? Why did Eve? "But I am afraid, lest as **the serpent deceived Eve** by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." (2 Cor.11:3)

Peter to Ananias:

"Ananias, why has **Satan filled your heart to lie** to the Holy Spirit." (Acts 5:3a)

"Why is it that you have **conceived this deed in your heart**? You have not lied to men, but to God." (Acts 5:4b)

Peter to Sapphira

"Why is it that you have **agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test**?" (Acts 5:9a)

This lesson will study five aspects of how Satan was able to fill their hearts to Lie to the Holy Spirit and what they could done to prevent it.

1. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (IHS) is 1of 8 works of the Holy Spirit in the life of every Church Age Believer (CAB) at the moment of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:1-4; Rom.1:16).

(1 Cor.6:19-20) "Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is **in you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; **therefore** glorify God in your body." (Rom.8:9; Jude 19)

This indwelling is forever based on the promise of the word of God

(John 14:16) "And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that **He may be with you forever**."

2. The IHS is given to every CAB because the ministry of Jesus Christ is so vitally important to the Plan of God in the last days of human history.

(John 5:20) "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and **greater works** than these will He show Him, that you may marvel."

(John 14:12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **greater works** than these shall he do; because I go to the Father."

(Heb.1:2) "**In these last days** has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world." (Heb.9:26; 1 Pet.1:20)

3. This greater works ministry of Jesus Christ is headquartered inside every CAB as well as collectively in body of the church.

(1 Cor.3:16-17) “Do you not know that you (plural) are **the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you**? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”(2 Cor.6:16)

(Eph.2:21-22) “In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a **holy temple in the Lord**. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”

Two greater works ministries are taken from the 20 Status Privileges of every CAB:

- **ambassador** (2 Cor.5:18-21)
- **priest** (1 Pet.2:5-9).

Warning: Satan did get into the hearts of these two spiritually mature leaders of the church and caused them to choose to lie to the indwelling Holy Spirit? [Satan attacks the church from the inside and from the outside.]

4. Satan filled their hearts to lie to the IHS.

Like Eve, he deceived them into believing a lie over the truth of the word of God (2 Cor.11:3 (NV); John 8:44)

The Greek word for **filled** is pleroo (a.a.ind) (**Acts 5:3**). It is the same Greek word used in **Eph.5:18**

- “Be filled (pleroo / p.a.impv.2pl) with Holy Spirit.”

This also happened to Peter (NV)

- (Matt.16:21-23) “Get behind Me, **Satan!** You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” (Matt.16:23)

Satan has to get permission (permissive will of God) to personalize his attack upon a believer (Luke 22:31-33; Job 1:6-12)

- “Simon, Simon, **Satan asked** to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthened your brothers.” (Luke 22:31)

“**As** a man thinks in his heart **so** is he.” (Prov.23:7). This teaches that our behavior works off our beliefs.

- **Belief** - “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” (OMCD)
- **Behavior** – “and to keep back some of the price of the land?” (Acts 5:3) (materialistic reversionism)

(Acts 5:4) “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.” Prov.15:3)

(Acts 5:9) “Why is it that you have **agreed together** to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?”

5. Two spiritual techniques are necessary for the believer to win against the assault of Satan (1 Pet.5:8) (Gal.5:16-17; Rom.13:13-14; 1 Pet.2:11-12) (2 Cor.5:7; Matt.4:1-11; Eph.6:11-17).

(1 John 4:4) “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

“And do not give the devil an opportunity.” (Eph.4:27) (1 John 2:14; 2 Cor.2:11; 10:4-5)

Important prayer of Jesus on our behalf in the Angelic Conflict (AC)

- (John 17:15) “I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”

Important promise of Jesus on our behalf in the Angelic Conflict (AC)

- (2 Thess.3:3) “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”