

Peter with Ananias & Sapphira

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

A married woman can have a wonderful impact upon her husband, just like possibly what you witnessed with your mother in her generous and giving concern for your father. Sadly, a wife can work in the opposite way. She can be part of scheming for power and recognition, and descending together into great evil.

In **Acts 5**, we read -

1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession.

2 And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power - to do what you would - why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

The personality and Godhead of the Holy Spirit are taught by Peter's words. The apostles were evidently the spiritual and temporal guides of the infant Church. This authority of the twelve can be seen

in the Gospels in this **Book of the Acts** and in the Epistles. It was intended for the foundation of the Church. Peter's supernatural knowledge, taught by the Holy Spirit, exercised disciplinary authority, such as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira, as - *listen to this - without another moment* —

5 Ananias hearing these words fell down and died. Notice there was no time for exhortation or repentance. He fell down dead. Then we go on and read in **Acts 5**. After an interval of about three hours, his wife came in, not having heard of what had happened.

8 And Peter said to her, Tell me, did you sell the land for so much? And she said, Yes, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How could you two have agreed and conspired together to try to deceive the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out [also].

10 And instantly she fell down at his feet and died; and the young men entering found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And the whole church and all others who heard of these things were appalled [great awe and strange terror and dread seized them].

Peter had exercised the God-given authority of His apostleship. Sapphira had deliberately and even defiantly, shamelessly answered, **Yes, for so much**. The sin of Ananias and Sapphira is

traced to its sources in both in **verse 3 - Satan,** - and **verse 4 - self.**

According to **1 Peter 5:9**, Satan will flee if resisted **steadfast in the faith.** Self is overcome when the will is first yielded. Their whole purpose was to lie to the Holy Spirit or to cheat the Holy Spirit. Peter, the apostle, had fulfilled a solemn prerogative in administering the rebuke: “Why have you agreed together to tempt the Spirit of God?” Sadly, when a wife joins with her husband in furthering her husband’s sinful projects, he is much more likely to descend to evil. The sin of spiritual pretense in the Church was exposed to release spiritual power and purity.

How does this message speak to you as a believer today? What severity of judgment the early Church witnessed! Godly fear always results in . . . **holy and reverend is His Name**, as in **Psalm 111:9.** Oh, the holiness of God! For some of us perhaps we have reduced God to be the convenient person who can come and go in our life to see those good things we do in public; to be able to bless us when we need blessing, to be able to protect us when we are in trouble. But we use God as if He was at the end of our little yo-yo; we miss the fact that we are dealing with an awesome, Almighty God, Who, by His word, brought forth the world! Therefore, how is it we resist what His Spirit is saying at this time? Could it be that you have never really come to know God as God, that Jesus to you is a

name that has been convenient for you to make a decision for? You personally need to know Almighty God through Christ Jesus and the covering of His Blood, as today you say, *Lord, save me, a sinner.*

In Jesus' Name, I pray.

Hallelujah! Amen.