

Free to Give  
Satanic Giving  
Acts 5:1-11  
January 29, 2017

Be GENUINE in your Giving for the GLORY OF GOD.

*Acts 5:1-11 — 1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and 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 for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him. 7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.*

#### 6 Safeguards Against Satanic Giving

1. Don't COMPARE yourself to others. Acts 5:1-2

*Acts 4:36-37 — 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

*1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2 and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

#### ...Spiritual Prestige

2. Be HONEST with God in your giving. Acts 5:3

*Matthew 6:1-4 — 1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in*

*the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”*

3. Take RESPONSIBILITY for your giving. Acts 5:4a

*4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”*

Who will I give to? The answer to that needs to start with GOD!

Where will I give?

When will I give?

What will I give?

How will I give?

4. Guard your HEART. Acts 5:4b

*Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”*

*...1 Peter 5:8-9 — 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*

5. Be careful about the EXAMPLE you follow. Acts 5:7-9

*7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”*

6. Give for the GLORY OF GOD. Acts 5:5-6, 10-11

*5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him...10 Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.*

Let's talk about satanic giving...

1. What had Ananias and Sapphira see that prompted them to sell a piece of property and give some of the proceeds to the apostles (v.1-2)?
2. Who took the lead in this scheme (v.1-2) and how were they similar/different from what Adam and Eve did in the Garden?
3. What were Ananias and Sapphira trying to accomplish by the way they gave (v.2)?
4. What areas do you see yourself being tempted to be less than genuine in?
5. Who had been behind the decision that Ananias and Sapphira had made concerning their giving (v.3)?
6. What did Peter say about what Ananias and Sapphira had done (v.3)?
7. How doe Satan exert influence over our lives today?
8. What was Ananias and Sapphira's real sin (v.3-4)?
9. How can we take responsibility for our giving for the glory of God (v.4)?
10. Why was Sapphira's agreement with her husband in this case wrong (v.9)?
11. Why do you think God's discipline was so severe in the case of Ananias and Sapphira?