

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 16

## Are We Guilty of Proof Texting Concerning The Local Church? - Acts Ch.5

### They Lied And They Died???

#### Acts Chapter Five

When Peter questioned Ananias about how much of their money they were giving he lied.

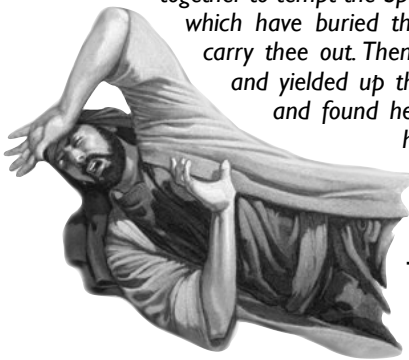
**Peter said,**

*“Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost.”*

Three hours later his wife came and Peter questioned her about the funds they gave.

**Peter said,**

*“Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.”*



#### A Serious Price For A Little Deception

This seems like a very serious penalty as a result of the deception of this couple. Rebekah was a liar. Jacob was a liar. Abraham lied. Rahab lied and is mentioned in Hebrews chapter eleven in a positive manner. Peter lied when he denied the Lord. Noah got drunk. David committed adultery and murder. The Corinthian saints were immoral. The death sentence was not passed on any of them.

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Article

#### Powerful Marriages

**Guest Article**

By Simeon Western

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Article

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Understanding The Ministry of The Holy Spirit

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Paul, in his Epistles to local churches, writes about sins in those churches far worse than the deception of Ananias and his wife, and yet nobody was put to death by God for these sins.

**Ananias and his wife gave most of their wealth,** lied about what they kept and were sentenced to death by Peter; however, when speaking to the most carnal people in any local church in the New Testament **Paul said,**

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”* (First Corinthians 1:10).

He didn't pass a death sentence on them like Peter did with Ananias and Sapphira.

### Did They Die Because They Destroyed The Unity In The Early Church?

I believed that for years because that was one way several commentaries explain it away; however, when I decided to “study” the Scriptures I found this situation had absolutely nothing to do with the “early church.”

The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to report the great unity that prevailed among the group. Acts 4:32 says, **“they were of one heart and of one soul.”** Acts 4:32 says they, **“had all things common.”**

Unity in the local church is also important; however, unity in the **kingdom** was absolutely

necessary. The difference is when the unity in the local church is tampered with by someone who is deceptive: they are not put to death for that sin. If tampering with the unity was a death sentence in the local church age, funeral homes would be full every week.

Every reference to this point in the Book of Acts referring to being “with one accord” has to do with Israel concerning the message and the requirements if the kingdom was to be a reality for them.

- **Acts 1:14,** Kingdom Message - **“...with one accord.”**
- **Acts 2:1,** Kingdom Message - **“...with one accord.”**
- **Acts 2:46,** Kingdom Message - **“...with one accord.”**
- **Acts 4:24,** Kingdom Message - **“...with one accord.”**
- **Acts 5:12,** Kingdom Message - **“...with one accord.”**

### Everyone Had To Be Involved

- **Acts 2:14,** **“...all** ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you.”
- **Acts 2:17,** “I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all** flesh.”
- **Acts 2:36,** “Therefore let **all** the house of Israel know...”
- **Acts 2:38,** “Repent, and be baptized **every one of you.**”
- **Acts 3:26,** “turning away **every one of you** from his iniquities.”
- **Acts 4:10,** “Be it known unto you **all,** and to **all** the people of Israel.”
- **Acts 4:16,** “manifest to **all** them that dwell in Jerusalem.”



### They Lied To The Holy Spirit

**Acts 5:3** says,

*“Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost?**”*

**Verse 9** says,

*“Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have **agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?**”*

It was not a light thing to lie to the third member of the Trinity; however, if everyone in the local church age was put to death for not being honest with the Holy Spirit the average fundamental independent Baptist church would be much smaller.

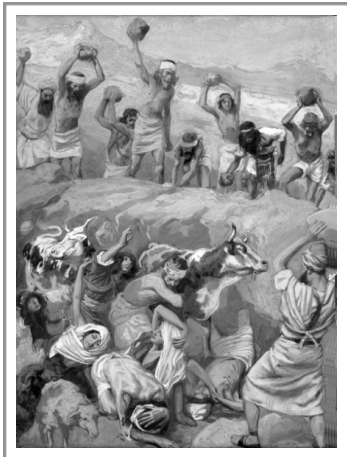
### How Were Things Done Under The Old Testament Law?

- **Exodus 19:12,** **“...whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 21:12,** **“He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 21:15,** **“And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 21:16,** **“And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him...he shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 21:17,** **“And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 21:29,** **“But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death.”**
- **Exodus 22:19,** **Whosoever lieth with a beast shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 31:14,** **“Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall be surely put to death.”**
- **Exodus 31:15,** **“whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.”**

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## The Death of Achan And His Family

**Joshua 7:24,25**

*"And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones."*

The phrase, "put to death" is found over fifty times in the Old Testament. The phrase "shall die" is found over sixty times in the Old Testament.

## Total Unity Was Absolutely Necessary For The Kingdom To Be A Reality

**Acts 5:12** says,

*"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were **all with one accord** in Solomon's porch. And **of the rest durst no man join himself to them.**"*

## Repentance And Deception Do Not Mix

It was not acceptable unto the Lord in Acts chapter five and it is not acceptable unto the Lord in our day; however, for the Nation of Israel to experience the kingdom there had to be a genuine repentance on the part of **everyone**. That is why Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized **every one of you**" (Acts 2:38).

## Unity In The Kingdom Was Not An Option

- **Acts 1:14** - "These **all** continued with one accord."
- **Acts 1:14** - "And it was known unto **all**."
- **Acts 1:24** - "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of **all**."
- **Acts 2:1** - "...they were **all** with one accord."
- **Acts 2:4** - "...they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 2:14** - "...**all** ye that dwell at Jerusalem."
- **Acts 2:17** - "I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all** flesh."
- **Acts 2:36** - "Therefore let **all** the house of Israel know."
- **Acts 2:44** - "And **all** that believed were together."
- **Acts 4:10** - "Be it known unto...**all** the people of Israel."
- **Acts 4:16** - "...manifest to **all** them that dwell in Jerusalem."
- **Acts 4:31** - "...they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost."
- **Acts 4:33** - "...and great grace was upon them **all**."
- **Acts 5:12** - "...they were **all** with one accord."

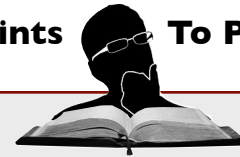
## The Death of Ananias And Sapphira Brought Great Fear Upon Assembled

**Verse 11** says,

*"And great fear came upon all the church, (assembly) and upon as many as heard these things."*

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## Points To Ponder



## Jude Did Not Change His Mind

**Jude 1:3**, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Jude spoke of the "common salvation." The Greek word translated "common" here is *koinos*. It was used by the Jews concerning something that was "unhallowed," "profane," or "unclean."

**In Mark 7:2**

It is translated, "defiled."

**In Romans 14:14**

It is translated, "unclean" (Three times).

**In Hebrews 10:29**

It is translated, "unholy thing."

**Two Types of Salvation**

**Hebrews 2:3**, "...great salvation."

**Jude 1:3**, "...common salvation."

It was needful for Jude to write and "give all diligence" to warn the people of his day about the "common" salvation that was being promoted.

We are living in an age when it is happening again. The plan of salvation being promoted by many today that leaves repentance out of the plan is not only heresy, it is a "damnable heresy."

*"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them"*

(Second Peter 2:1).



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**We have seen the Greek word ekklesia refers to a public meeting of any kind.** It was used of Moses when he met in the wilderness and it was used concerning a political meeting in Acts chapter nineteen. We can determine from the context of this and all the previous chapters in Acts, that the word ekklesia in chapter five is used concerning those meeting about the kingdom that was offered to Israel.

### The Unity Was Restored

#### Acts 5:11,12 says

*“And great fear came upon all the church, (ekklesia - their kingdom assembly) and upon as many as heard these things. And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch.”*

#### Acts 5:13 continues,

*“And of the rest durst no man join himself to them.”*

**Ananias a Sapphira were deceptive and dared to “join” their assembly and they paid a serious price for it.** This is totally different from the Age of Grace in which we now live. If God killed every person who joined a local church who is deceptive, today’s apostate mega churches would soon come to an end and so would our fundamental movement.

### Repentance

Today, if someone is going to trust Christ as their personal Saviour genuine repentance is also the only way salvation can become a reality. Jesus said, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*

### Repentance Concerning Israel

The Nation of Israel had rejected their King; however, Israel, had a way out of their dilemma. Acts 3:17 says, *“And now, brethren, (fellow Jews) I wot that through ignorance ye did it.”* We have seen that in Leviticus 4:2 Moses was commanded of God concerning what he was to do if the children of Israel should *“sin through ignorance.”* They could use this section of the Law and still receive their King. **All they needed to do was to genuinely repent.** This was strictly Jewish and had nothing to do with the local church or local church doctrine.

### Concerning The Local Church Age

Paul makes the comparison in Acts 17:30. He said, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at.”* Paul continued, *“but now (local church age) commandeth all men every where to repent.”*

#### Acts 26:20 says,

*“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”*

### “The Believers Were Added”

Notice verse fourteen says, *“And believers were the more added to the Lord.”* (Strong’s Concordance, “this title is given to: God, the Messiah”).

#### Verses 15,16 tells us what they believed.

##### We read,

*“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”*

##### Notice:

1. The sick brought into the streets, and they were healed.
2. Peter’s shadow was healing some of them.
3. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks.
4. Those vexed with unclean spirits were healed every one.

**There is no mention of anyone receiving Christ as Saviour.** No doubt that was happening; however, this portion of Scripture is talking about something else. Again, when the Bible talks about someone “believing” something we must keep it within its context.

### Jarius’ Daughter

When Jarius’ daughter was raised to life they were not talking about salvation. In **Mark 5:36** Jesus said to the ruler, *“Be not afraid, only believe.”*



### The Blind Man

When the blind man received his sight they were not talking about salvation. In **Matthew 9:28** Jesus asked *“Believe ye that I am able to do this?”*

### The Demon Possessed Child

When the demon possessed child was delivered they were not talking about salvation.

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In **Mark 9:23** Jesus said, "If thou canst **believe**, all things are possible to him that **believeth**."

**The Nobleman's Son**

When the nobleman's son was healed they were not talking about salvation. In **John 4:50** Jesus said, "Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man **believed** the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way."

**The Apostles In Prison Again**

**Acts 5:17-20,**

*"Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."*

It seems to be important to the Holy Spirit that we understand that the activities recorded in Acts chapter five took place in the temple.

- **Acts 5:12**, "in Solomon's porch."
- **Acts 5:20**, "Go, stand and speak in the temple."
- **Acts 5:21**, "they entered into the temple."
- **Acts 5:24**, "the captain of the temple."
- **Acts 5:2**, "in the temple."
- **Acts 5:42**, "And daily in the temple."

As we continue through the chapter we find Peter and John were set free by an angel and were back **in the temple** teaching the people. The religious hypocrites that were in charge of the temple were very upset to say the least and they threatened them again.

**Peter's Response**

**Verses 29-31,**

*"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."*

1. Peter said, "**The God of our fathers**," because he was speaking only to Jews.
2. Peter continued "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a **Prince** (someone in line for the throne) and a **Saviour**."
3. "To give repentance to Israel, **and** forgiveness of sins."

After the religious hypocrites who were in control of the temple deliberated for some time we read in verses 40-42 when...

*"they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go."*

**"They Went To Their Own Company"**

**In Acts 4:23 we read,**

*"And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them."*

It would be sensible to conclude that "their company" was Christians who were meeting together. In Acts 15:22 the local church at Jerusalem is referred to as, "their own company."

**Conclusions From Acts Chapter Five**

1. Ananias and Sapphira died because they were deceitful.
2. The meeting they were at had nothing to do with a local church.
3. To suggest it happened in a local church setting is to take it out of its context.
4. Nothing like this happens in the local church age.
5. It was common in the Old Testament age for people to be put to death for deception.
6. It is impossible to genuinely repent and be deceptive at the same time.
7. Genuine repentance was necessary for all those who "believed" in the kingdom message.
8. The focus of the entire chapter is Jewish.
9. The local church or local church doctrine is not the focus of Acts chapter five.
10. **This does not mean local churches were not meeting. It simply means this chapter is dealing with something else.**
11. The only way we can force the local church into Acts chapter five is to take Acts chapter five out of context.
12. To use Scriptures from Acts chapter five to support the fact that local churches were meeting is to be guilty of proof texting.

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**Acts Chapter nine records the salvation of Paul. Verse 31 says...**

*"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified."*

**There was obviously churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria before Paul was saved.**



**“A Time To Laugh...”**



A young kid from North Dakota moved to Florida and went into a big "everything under one roof" department store looking for a job. The Manager asked, "You got any sales experience?" The kid said, "Yeah. I was a vacuum cleaner salesman back in North Dakota."

Well, the boss was unsure, but he liked the kid and figured he'd give him a shot, so he gave him the job. "You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did."

His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After he locked up, the boss came down to the sales floor and asked, "How many customers bought something from you today?" The kid frowns and looks at the floor and mumbles, "One."

The boss said, "Just one?!?! Our sales people average sales to 20 to 30 customers a day. That will have to change, and quick, if you want to continue your employment here. We have very strict standards for our sales force here in Florida. One sale a day might have been acceptable in North Dakota, but you're not on the farm anymore, son."

The kid took his beating, and looked at his shoes, so the boss felt kinda bad for chewing him out on his first day. He asked (semi-sarcastically), "So, how much money was your one sale for?"

The kid looks up at his boss and says "\$101,237.65." The boss, astonished, says \$101,237.65?!? What in the world did you sell?"

The kid says, "Well, first, I sold him some new fish hooks. Then I sold him a new fishing rod to go with his hooks. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the on coast, so I told him he was going to need a good boat, so we went down to the boat department and I sold him a nice Chris Craft with twin 300 horse power Evinrudes. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would be able to pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that nice Ford F-250 4x4."

The boss said "Wait a minute!?! I put you to work in the greeting card department. How in the world did you sell him all that stuff?"

The kid said "Well, he came in here to buy a get well card for his girlfriend who broke her leg last night, and I said, 'Dude, your weekend's shot, you oughta go fishing.....'"

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