

Devoted and Unshaken: The Book of Acts
"Unstoppable Church" #6
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
June 1st, 2025

Sermon Teaching

Big Idea: "An unstoppable church is fueled by **generosity**, grounded in **integrity**, and fearless in the face of **opposition**."

1. Live Generously

All the believers were **united in heart and mind**. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they **shared everything they had**.³³ The **apostles** testified powerfully to the **resurrection of the Lord Jesus**, and God's great blessing was upon them all.³⁴ There were **no needy people** among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them³⁵ and bring the money to the **apostles** to give to those in need.³⁶ For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed **Barnabas** (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus.³⁷ He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. **Acts 4:32-37 (NLT2)**

2. Live Honestly

¹ But there was a certain man named **Ananias** who, with his wife, **Sapphira**, sold some property.
² He brought part of the money to the **apostles**, claiming it was the full amount. With his **wife's consent**, he kept the rest.³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? **You lied to the Holy Spirit**, and you kept some of the money for yourself."⁴ The property was **yours to sell or not sell**, as you wished. And after selling it, **the money was also yours** to give away. How could you do a thing like this? **You weren't lying to us but to God!**"⁵ As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.⁶ Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.⁷ About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.⁸ Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price."⁹ And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of **conspiring** to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too."¹⁰ Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.
¹¹ **Great fear gripped the entire church** and everyone else who heard what had happened.
Acts 5:1-11 (NLT2)

3. Live Fearlessly

¹² **The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people**. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's Colonnade.¹³ But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high **regard** for them.¹⁴ Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—**crowds** of both men and women.¹⁵ As a result of the **apostles' work**, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by.¹⁶ **Crowds** came from the **villages around Jerusalem**, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil

spirits, and they were all healed. ¹⁷ The high priest and his officials, who were **Sadducees**, were filled **with jealousy**. ¹⁸ They **arrested the apostles** and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, ²⁰ “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!” ²¹ So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately **began teaching**. When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council—the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. ²² But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported, ²³ “The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!” ²⁴ When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. ²⁵ Then someone arrived with startling news: “The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!” ²⁶ The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. ²⁷ Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. ²⁸ “Didn’t we tell you never again to teach in this man’s name?” he demanded. “Instead, you have **filled all Jerusalem** with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, **“We must obey God rather than any human authority.”** ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed him by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ Then God put him in the place of honor at his right hand as **Prince and Savior**. He did this so the people of Israel would **repent of their sins and be forgiven**. ³² We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who **obey Him**.” ³³ When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them. ³⁴ But one member, a Pharisee named **Gamaliel**, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. ³⁵ Then he said to his colleagues, “Men of Israel, take care what you are planning to do to these men! ³⁶ Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ “So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. ³⁹ **But if it is from God**, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves **fighting against God!**” ⁴⁰ The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them **flogged**. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. ⁴² And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: **“Jesus is the Messiah.” Acts 5:12-42**

- Which of the three areas—generosity, integrity, or living fearlessly—do you feel God calling you to grow in most right now?

My Next Right Step:

- [] I will practice living Generously
- [] I will practice living Honestly
- [] I will practice living Fearlessly

Devoted and Unshaken: The Book Of Acts
Unstoppable Church #6
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
June 1st, 2025

Talk It Over

Big Idea: "An unstoppable church is fueled by **generosity**, grounded in **integrity**, and fearless in the face of **opposition**."

Icebreaker:

What's the most generous thing someone has ever done for you? How did it impact you?

Read Acts 4:32–37

1. Live Generously

What stands out to you about the generosity of the early church?

Why do you think unity and generosity often go hand in hand?

How does the example of Barnabas challenge or inspire you?

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 – What does cheerful giving look like in your life?

Is there something or someone God is prompting you to give to—beyond your usual pattern?

Read Acts 5:1–11

2. Live Honestly

What was the real issue with Ananias and Sapphira's actions?

How does this story reveal God's heart for integrity in His church?

Why is spiritual authenticity so essential in Christian community?

Proverbs 10:9 – "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely..."

Is there any area in your life where you've been pretending spiritually? What step can you take to walk in truth?

Read Acts 5:12–42

3. Live Fearlessly

“We must obey God rather than human beings!” (v. 29)

What do you admire about the apostles’ response to opposition?

How does prayer and community fuel boldness?

What might it look like for you to obey God fearlessly this week?

Who is one person you can pray for and reach out to with the love and truth of Christ this week?

Which of the three areas—generosity, integrity, or living fearlessly—do you feel God calling you to grow in most right now?

How can your group support each other in becoming a more Spirit-filled, unstoppable church?

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to cultivate radical generosity in your hearts
- Pray for purity and truth in all areas of life
- Seek courage to speak about Jesus—even when it’s uncomfortable